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NUTES, not HOURS, to relieve
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Difficult Breathing, Pal-
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TRUE RELIEF.
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E GREAT
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es sound flesh, strong bone and a
would have your flesh firm, your
without caries, and your complex-
Sarsaparillian Resolvent.
FUL RECOGNITION.
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DISEASES CURED BY
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RILLIAN RESOLVENT.
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Resolvent. It cures step by
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ble Substitute for Calomel.
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egetable, purify, cleanse and strengthen
PILLS, for the cure of all disorders
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Purely Vegetable, containing no
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Fever and Dull Pain in the Head, De-
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of RADWAY'S PILLS will free the
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with full confidence, it is to me a
a duty to thankfully acknowledge the
have derived from them. The pills
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THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

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Editorial.

UNDERDRAINING.

Some portion of almost every farm would be improved by underdraining, but to decide what particular fields will pay to underdrain requires more than ordinary intelligence, and no doubt mistakes are made by draining land that is not improved by it, and in not draining land that would be greatly improved by it.

The idea has been very general that nearly all soils are improved by underdraining, but this is a mistake. Some soils are not only not improved, but are actually injured. We remember of seeing drains laid on the side of a hill, the owner being a strong believer in underdraining, claimed that because the soil was of a mixture of clay it would be greatly improved by underdraining, but a few years proved his mistake, the grass being so much less over and near the drains as to show very plainly just where they were laid; after a few years the drains were taken up, and the land went back to its former good condition. This, no doubt, was a rare instance, but it proved that there are localities where even clay soils are not improved by underdraining.

To underdrain land well is quite expensive; therefore, to make it a paying operation it must be a great improvement, and the crops grown must be large as well as valuable. It is doubtful if there are many fields that it will pay to underdrain for the purpose of growing Indian corn or small grains, but *for orchards, small fruits or garden vegetables, there are large* tracts that it will no doubt pay to underdrain. For grass, when only profits are sought for, most of land can be drained with open ditches to the best advantage; it is true these are unsightly and do not drain the land as well, or leave it in so good condition as underdrains; but the difference in the value of the crop is not so great on most lands, as the difference in the cost of draining. Many farmers are so situated that they can open ditches in leisure hours with out feeling it; but when they have to pay out money for tiles it is a drag on many that becomes a permanent one if the operation does not pay.

Thrifty farmers of large means should not hesitate to underdrain more or less every year, until they have underdrained all of their land that they are satisfied will be improved by it. Their surplus money had better be thus invested than in buying fancy stocks for speculative purposes; but the farmer whose property is encumbered by a heavy debt should introduce only such improvements as he feels well satisfied will bring a better interest on the outlay than he is paying for borrowed money.

Fortunately the farmers of Massachusetts do-day are much better able to sell every year a few hundred dollars worth of produce than their grandfathers were, therefore are in a better condition to make improvements that require an outlay of money than they were; yet the great mass of farmers, as well as those who follow other professions, in making improvements are obliged to consult economy rather than appearances if they would prosper financially. Were it not for this, the question as to what fields should be underdrained would not be so difficult to decide. Those of limited means should not attempt to underdrain large fields in any one year, but should do a little every year so as not to feel the labor very much, and also to test the value of the operation. There are some fields which for garden vegetables may be improved to such a degree that but a very few years will be required to pay the whole cost of drainage, and which will ever after continue to produce much larger crops than before the drains were laid.

When it is once decided to drain a field, it requires good judgment to lay the work out so as to have it done to the best advantage. The distance the drains should be apart, the depth of the drains, and the size of the tile, are all matters of importance. The distance apart must depend somewhat on the depth, for the deeper the tiles are laid, the greater will be the distance which the water will be readily drawn. The greater the fall the smaller may be the tile. It is surprising how large a quantity of water will run through a two inch tile in twenty-four hours, even when the descent is but two inches to a hundred feet, providing the tile be properly laid; this is important. The bottom of the trench should be as near a true incline as possible, especially if the fall is not large; to do this properly use a straight edge made of a board twenty feet long, six inches wide at one end, and as much wider at the other as is the fall of the trench, so when the top of the board is level, which can be ascertained by a carpenter's level, the bottom of the trench will be right. When it is possible the tile should be laid below the frost, and on most of soils the lines should not be more than forty feet apart. As to the size of the tile, two inches is large enough, except for main lines. Before covering the tile some straw or eel grass should be placed over the joints to prevent the dirt from washing into the tile and filling them up. If nothing better can be had, a good sod laid on with the grass side next to the tile answers a very good purpose.

There is no better season for draining land than during the three months commencing with September; the farmer is not so busy as in the spring, and the weather is not so hot as in the summer; in the winter the ground usually being frozen, the work cannot be done.

On land that is free from stone much of the digging can be done with horses or oxen even with a common plough, but with a plough made for the purpose of digging tile ditches, a large part of the work may be done in this way; but on land that has occasionally a small rock in it, the work must be done principally by hard labor, which very much increases the expense, yet a strong energetic man will dig from eight to sixteen rods per day, according to the depth of the ditch and character of the soil, providing it be ploughed out by turning a furrow each side, which can easily be done, even where there are some rocks. A considerable portion of the work of filling the trench can be done with a plough, but hand labor should be used until the tile is fairly covered, that none of it may become displaced.

WHAT SHALL WE USE FOR WATER PIPES?

As a very large proportion of the water we drink is conveyed through some kind of pipe, it is very important that we should know what is the best material for this purpose. In New England wood was one of the first materials used, and probably imparts as little to the water that is objectionable as any material that has ever yet been used that can be purchased for any reasonable price, but its durability is not satisfactory, and is not laid over uneven ground or around corners as easily as pipe made of some other materials. Lead pipe came into use many years ago, and being very easily laid and the price being reasonable, it very rapidly worked its way to public favor, and soon took the place of small pipe made of wood. Not many years elapsed after its introduction before the alarming discovery was made that it imparted to some water a very poisonous substance, and that it was not always safe to use it. Following the lead came the iron pipe, but this imparted to the water so much iron rust that it injured cloths that were washed in it; this led to the introduction of the glass lined iron pipe, which imparted no impurities to the water; but the cost was so much that few felt that they could afford to use it. When the galvanized pipe was introduced it was believed to be what had long been sought for, it being very cheap and free from rust, it very rapidly found its way into use; but it was not long before the discovery was made that it was even more poisonous than lead, which caused many to abandon its use and go back to lead. About this time a lead pipe lined with tin was introduced; this is as readily laid as lead and yet has none of its objections, the water passing through it being perfectly pure. The cost is what prevents the more general introduction of this pipe.

Various other materials have been used for making pipes and for lining them, but they all seem to have some objections, so we do not settle down to any particular pipe as the best; but each person uses that which is the cheapest, or which he has reason to believe is the best.

Recently an iron pipe has been introduced that is lined with cement. This comes very cheap, is said to be very durable, and is believed to impart no impurities to the water after it has been used a few weeks. Whether this is to be the coming pipe to convey water for domestic purposes, time only will tell; it promises very good and appears to have but few objections; but a few years trial by the masses may disclose defects that may bring it down on a level with other pipe.

SELECTING SEED CORN.

It is the usual custom among farmers to select seed corn at the time of husking, and each farmer has his particular idea as to what constitutes a perfect ear; while some select the earliest ears, others select the largest, and most of farmers select the largest of twin ears, though some object to this, and prefer an ear that is of good size and grows by itself on a rather small stalk.

Our methods of selecting seed corn and of improving it, are most of them wrong. In the first place, if we would make permanent improvements, we must have our seed corn grown by itself, and begin early in the season to remove all of the inferior stalks, thus insuring the seed to come from vigorous plants, free from disease or imperfections; then the selection of the seed should be done in the field as soon as it begins to ripen, marking each ear by tying a red string around it. When husked a second selection should be made, rejecting all undesirable ears. A few years of careful selection in this way will make a marked change in the corn, it will be more even and also more productive, because there will be less unproductive stalks, those having been carefully cut out before blossoming.

The continual selection of twin ears, tends to increase the small unripe ears, which do not pay the husking, for unless the stalk be of large size, it will not carry out two full sized ears; but if an effort be made to secure seed that will produce one good ear, on a small stalk, in a few years the small green ears will disappear, thus reducing the labor of husking, and yet not decrease the yield, for two small stalks with one good ear each, will as readily grow on one large stalk with one large and one small ear.

Every farmer should settle down to some particular variety which he believes to be best adapted to his particular farm. By so doing he will be able to maintain a variety distinct from all others, and, to year after year, improve it in the direction he may think best suited to his wants. Some farmers are doing this, and have already made considerable progress. The object to be sought should be to secure a variety of corn that will produce the largest amount possible with the expenditure of a given amount of labor and material.

DROUTH.

Almost every year the cry comes from some portion of the State, that the crops are drying up for want of rain; this year is no exception to the rule, though until the last of July nearly every portion of the State was in a condition the most favorable for the growth of almost every kind of vegetation; but since the first week in August, the hoed crops, in some sections of the State, have suffered very much for the want of rain, combined with the want of proper care, but up to the middle of the month the hoed crops of but very few well manured and well cultivated farms, in this State, have suffered by the drouth.

Those who planted potatoes after the first of June and hilled them, will have a small crop in those portions of the State that have not been favored with frequent showers since August came in, but if planted deep, and the land kept level, even in the dryest sections the crop promises large; thus indicating that the farmer has the power to greatly protect his crops from the drouth, if he will only plant and cultivate the right way; for what is true of the potato, is true of many other crops.

There is probably no direction which the farmer can turn his attention to with more profit, than that of learning how to best protect his crops from injury by drouth. We have already made much progress within the last twenty-five years, and no doubt the next twenty-five years will witness even a greater progress. It is not many years ago that it was the general opinion among farmers, that the soil should not be stirred during dry weather, and it is even now the general practice among farmers to hill hoed crops, though most of intelligent farmers are willing to admit that level culture is the best. They hill because they think by so doing they can keep the weeds down easier.

Some of the best and most successful farmers in the State, not only keep the land frequently stirred during a drouth, but they also keep the land as level as possible, because they get better crops, and at the same time do the work easier because the soil is so level and free from weeds. Even potatoes which most of farmers believe should be hilled some, are found to yield much better by level culture, providing they are planted so deep that when they are covered the hill is two or three inches below the level of the land, and leveled up the first and second time hoeing.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

Within the past eight years there have been founded in several States institutions which, though they have not yet attracted much attention from the general public, can hardly fail to exert, in the near future, an important influence both on the material and mental welfare of the people. These institutions are the agricultural experiment stations, of which six now exist in this country, with a prospect of the speedy establishment of at least two more.

By an agricultural experiment station is understood an institution established and maintained "for the purpose of promoting agriculture by scientific investigation and experiments." Such institutions have, in most cases, owed their existence to governmental action, and have been sustained at the public expense, though in a few instances universities and private individuals have carried on what are in effect experiment stations, the most notable example of the latter being the well known Rothamsted experiments of Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, in England.

Although experiment stations are still somewhat of a novelty in this country, they are far from being so in others. There is scarcely a country in Europe where one or more is not in operation, while in the German Empire they number not less than fifty. The first to be established was that at Rothamsted, just alluded to, in 1843. This has continued to the present time, though not under the name of an experiment station. Nine years later, the station at Mockern, in Saxony, which had been carried on for some two years by private and corporate generosity, received a grant of money from the state, and became the first public station. In 1853 a station was founded at Chemnitz, in 1855 one at Gross-Khemlin, and, for the succeeding twenty-two years, 1860 was the only year which did not witness the institution of at least one station. Other European nations followed the example of the German states, and stations were established by France in 1856, by Austria in 1857, by Holland in 1857, by Sweden in 1861, by Russia in 1864, by Italy in 1870, by Denmark in 1871, by Belgium in 1872, by Switzerland in 1872, by Austro-Hungary in 1873, by Scotland in 1875, by Spain in 1876. The value of the scientific work done by these stations during the last thirty years and the impetus it has given to rational agriculture are very great.—[H. P. Armsby in Popular Science Monthly for September.

35 DEAD LAMBS.

(Farmer's Advocate, Canada.)

We have heard from good authority that 35 lambs died recently on the Ontario Experimental Farm at Guelph; that they were in good order, even fit for the butcher, and were of different breeds. A skilled veterinary was called in, *post mortem* examinations made, and the verdict given was death by Tape-worm. We claim that the farmers should be immediately posted in any such case as this, and the cause and remedy given, if any is known; if not, let the question be asked publicly. Perhaps some of our farmers may aid us in giving the information. Thirty-five lambs are more than 25 per cent. of the lambs raised on the farm. We have had considerable experience with lambs for near 50 years, both in Canada and England, and never heard of anything like this—25 per cent. of the lamb crop lost when fit for the butcher, and from the effect of Tape-worm! In what way has the disease been contracted to such an extent? Has this been caused by the food, and of what kind? Has it been imported? If so, whence? Is it likely to be spread by breeding stock from the farm? Should the Government Farm be placed under quarantine, or the stock be destroyed? Are sheep more liable to contract this disease than they formally were? We would be pleased to have correct information in language the farmers can understand, and given in short space, so that it will not weary them to read it or crowd out better matter. We beg to call the attention of the authorities to this matter.

NEED OF VETERINARY SURGEONS.

[The Dairy.]

Hundreds of thousands of cattle, horses, swine and sheep are sacrificed yearly for want of competent medical attendance. There is ample room in the country for 10,000 veterinary surgeons. That would give an average of 1,000 horses and 4,000 cattle to each one, not to speak of the swine, sheep, and dogs which are always needing medical care. To support these in comfort would require about $20,000,000 annually, or about $4 for each owner of a farm, or about $2 for each person owning animals that require occasional treatment. It would pay well if the owners of animals should each adopt a system common in France of employing a surgeon at a small annual sum to visit and care for his stock regularly, to advise in regard to their condition and treatment, and to suggest proper sanitary precautions. This would prevent nearly all the losses which now occur and which undoubtedly amount yearly to $50,000,000, and would save at least an equal amount in losses of service by sickness of the animals. There is, indeed, a great need of veterinary surgeons, and young men having a leaning that way might do well to follow it.

☞ A sensible suggestion from G. W. Farlee in the Breeder's Gazette: "Let us try to breed as many twenty-one pound cows as is possible, with constitutions and digestions that can bear a severe test, and we will not find it necessary to continue the forcing process to get superior yields. We cannot expect and do not want our road-horse to trot his mile in 2.15 every day, but if he has once shown that he can do it he is pretty safe to rely on for a 2.40 gait whenever we call on him."

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

☞ A big wheat crop is reported from the Northwest.

☞ Iowa has at least twice the timber acre age she had thirty years ago.

☞ The cow that loses her milk should be milked three times a day. This is the best remedy.

☞ The age reports the tussock caterpillar is doing considerable damage to trees in Waldo county, Me.

☞ A new beetle has attacked the vineyards of California. It is from half an inch to an inch long, is jet black and hard shelled.

☞ Commissioner Loring has appointed N. H. Eggleston, of Williamstown, Mass., as Forestery Commissioner, in place of John A. Warder, deceased.

☞ Never attempt to carry a herd through a winter without liberally feeding all kinds of hay, fine and coarse, corn butts, some oat and even wheat straw.

☞ The grass on the plains this year is said to be exceptionally good, and many are taking advantage of it and putting up hay for winter.—[Mobeetie (Tex.) Panhandle.

☞ A gardener in Baltimore who has a number of large hot-houses for growing early cucumbers, keeps a hive of bees in each house for the purpose of distributing the pollen.

☞ Take the country over as it stands today and it will compare favorably with this time in any previous year. The grass crop is slightly better than usual.—[Texas Live-Stock Journal.

☞ Jersey Reds, are a race of hogs, rather smaller than the other improved breeds; with a heavy coat of dark red hair. They are said to be proof against swine fever. The breed originated in New Jersey.

☞ Adding cost of feeding all the dogs, and the value of the sheep they kill together it is a question if it is not better to feed all the sheep to the dogs and save the other food they eat.

☞ Fruit growers should remember that black knot on the plum is most effectually cured by prompt use of the knife, cutting away all diseased parts, which should be burned. Cut below the affected portions. If neglected, loss of tree will surely follow.

☞ Feed the largest variety of herbage that can be secured: constantly varying it will give the best results as to butter and progeny, always remembering that the less concentrated the food is, the better, provided the final results are satisfactory.

☞ The present year has witnessed the greatest rainfall Colorado has had these twenty-five years. The grasses that had been killed out on the prairies by the drought will now again take root. 1884 will sustain twice as many cattle as has 1883.—[Denver Journal of Commerce.

☞ Do not let a colt run wild until it is old enough to break. Tie it up occasionly in the stall with the lam, and frequently lead it by her side when taking her out for exercise or work. Put on a piece of harness now and then and it will be more easy to harness the animal when it becomes necessary.

☞ Mr. Henderson says: "I find that turf can be successfully laid down, if necessary, in dry and hot summer weather, by simply covering it when finished, before it gets too dry, with about a quarter of an inch of light soil, put through a half-open sieve. The grass begins to grow through the soil in a few days."

☞ The Country Gentleman says it is a good plan to cut and burn the excrescences formed by smut on the corn crop, as it will prevent the increase of the fungus. The latter retains its vitality for two years, according to some authorities, hence it is well to plant corn for that time on land known to be infested by it.

☞ South America is destined to be the next great beef-producing region of the world. It is estimated that in two years from now the number of cattle in the Argentine Confederation will number 28,000,000, against 13,000,000 in 1877. The enormous increase in the number of cattle has brought down the price so that good fat steers are selling at $6 to $8.

☞ The Lewiston Journal says that Eva French of East Turner, Me., 16 years old, has this summer driven a pair of horses on the mowing-machine to cut twenty-five acres of grass, and has raked the same with a horse-rake and pitched it into the barn with a horse pitchfork. In addition, Miss French can bake as good a batch of biscuits or do housework as well as any housewife in Turner.

☞ Fence corners, with their mass of brush and weeds, afford secure retreat for such troublesome insects as live through the winter, and for the deposit of eggs of others ready to hatch out in early spring the larvæ prepared to engage in depredations upon the first plants that appear. Cutting out and burning the rubbish is the best plan, as fire put an end to most of these, and thus the destroying element lessens the labor and saves the crops of the farm.

☞ The Augusta, (Me.,) Journal says the grain crop is a magnificent one this season. Oats which are now being harvested are yielding as they never yielded before. Wheat promises well. Corn, although backward, is looking finely. Potatoes are turning out bountifully and if the rot does not strike them, the crop will be enormous. Farmers cannot reckon on receiving over 50, cents a bushel for their tubers.

☞ In 1882 there were 8,000,000 barrels of salt consumed in the United States. Nearly three-fourths of the quantity was made in this country, Michigan alone producing about 6,250,000 barrels. Salt was first made in Syracuse by white men in the year 1788, when the annual product was 100 barrels, in 1880 it was 1,000,000 barrels. The first salt was made in Michigan in 1860, when the annual product was 400 barrels; in 1877 it was 1,661,000 barrels.

☞ Hon. Rufus Prince, President of the Maine State Agricultural Society, writes the Maine Farmer: "I am no horse doctor, but I will give you a simple but effective cure for 'scratches,' given me by one that had the care of horses for a long time, and which has never failed with me. It is this. Wind a woolen rag around the horse's ankle and fasten it on and let it be until it wears off. No matter if you drive your horse in the mud, do not take off the rag, and before you think it the scratches will be cured."

☞ Says Austin Gray, in the Iowa Register: "Too much pruning is worse than no pruning. When will farmers learn to commence pruning their trees when first planted, and prune a little every year—just enough to give them shape—and enough each year to keep them in shape, and no more, and not neglect them for years to care for themselves through hardship and grief, till finally, impatient that the trees do not bear, they come to the conclusion that something must be done, and so go into them with axe and saw and butcher them to death."

☞ An exchange observes under the head of Useful Birds: "Many of the birds most useful to the farmer and horticulturist, as wrens, wood-peckers, nut-hatches, titmice, etc, are species nesting in holes of decayed trees or stumps, and only found where such places of abode exist, disappearing to a greater or less degree with them. Of late years various contrivances have been devised, especially in Germany, to supply suitable breeding places to the birds mentioned, the most available and satisfactory being made of patterns of different shapes, either partially globular, cylindrical, or conical, and suspended to the trees. These, when smeared with moss and lichens, are almost as acceptable to the birds as hollow trees would be, and attract large numbers of them."

GROWING PLANTS IN MOSS.

BY CHARLES M. HOVEY.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

So much has recently been said in regard to the growth of plants in moss, that it may not be inappropriate to state that so far from being a new and novel system, it is in fact one of the oldest modes of growing plants, fully demonstrated and practiced in England not quite a century ago. It is true that fertilized moss may possibly be something new, but this is of little account, as the fertiliser soon loses its virtue and has to be renewed by subsequent applications.

Some twenty-five or thirty years ago, Mr. Chamberlain, a skillful and intelligent gardener of Newport, R. I., grew all kinds of plants in moss, and not only plants, but grapes, pine apples, pears and other fruits, and gave an account of his method in the Magazine of Horticulture (vol. xxvii, p. 542) illustrated with a fine cut of one of his specimens of grapes. A copy of this cut, with his remarks, I send you for insertion if you deem it important. Mr. Chamberlain

writes, "A plate of the basket of grapes, as presented to Mrs. Lincoln is sent with this communication, so that your readers may judge of its appearance. This method of growing fruit and flowers is preferable to any other, for its beauty, simplicity, and success, as less care and attention is necessary than for ordinary plants, and they will last for years without renewing."

"All plants, fruits and flowers can be grown in this way, such as pine apples, oranges, figs, grapes, peaches, pears, &c., besides all the small fruits, gooseberries, currants, strawberries, &c., to say nothing of the more beautiful and attractive things, such as camellias, roses, azaleas, fuschias, orchids, ferns, and variegated leaved plants."

I need only add that I have a fine camellia growing in moss now over a year, in fine condition and full of buds. As Mr. Chamberlain obtained a patent for his moss basket, all who cultivate in this way would be infringers, had not this patent, obtained in 1861, run out.

The advantages of growing plants in moss are fully stated in the annexed account. I do not think there is much of anything gained by its use. As a novelty, a play thing for amateurs to amuse themselves in experiments, it is well enough; but beyond this, growing plants in moss promises few advantages. I send you the paper just as I find it in the Transactions of the London Horticultural Society (vol. xi, p. 437).

"On the cultivation of plants in moss by Mr. John Street, gardener to the Honorable Miss Hamilton Nesbit, East Lothian."

(Read June 6, 1826).

"With pleasure I communicate to you my method of cultivating plants in moss. I am not aware that it has been practiced by any person but myself, and therefore consider that I am the discoverer of the plan, which I now use extensively, and find it advantageous in many ways, and particularly beneficial to some plants.

The mosses I use are the several species of Hypaum, such as H. Schreberi, squarrosum, purum, &c., these I collect in woods from under the bushes, taking up decaying stalks and leaves which are found amongst them. Sometimes I add about an inch of the surface of the vegetable mold which is under the mosses to mix with them in the pots.

The mosses so collected are pressed closely into the pots, and the plants are put into them as if into mold. For some plants I find it useful to add a little loam to the mosses, in other cases sharp sand, which is sometimes preferable to the loam. If the plants require manure I give it in a liquid state. As the mosses decay, the moss gets closer together, and I then fill up the top of the pot with the fresh material; but if the roots are much at the lower part of the pot, I prefer making the addition at the bottom.

The plants I have cultivated in moss are many; the following amongst others: Canna indica and patens, Calla Ethiopica, Agapanthus umbellatas, Hydrangeas, hortensia, Driandra prostrata, Justicia nervosa, Pelargoniums, &c. Some plants do better and flower earlier and more vigorously in mosses than in mold.

The roots of whatever things are put into the mosses spread and increase surprisingly, especially such as require to be kept wet, for the mosses retain moisture longer and more uniformly than mould.

In my practice I find several particular benefits in using pots thus filled with mosses in preference to mould; they are so much lighter that they are moved with greater readiness, and in large sized pots the risk of breaking them from their weight when they are moved is avoided. Pots of ornamental plants which are to be placed in the apartment of a house, have great advantages when filled with mosses, for independent of the facility with which they are moved, they make no dirt or litter on the floor, which often occurs when the pots are filled with mould. In seeding plants to a distance those which are rooted in mosses travel admirably; they turn well out of the pots and the roots are so mixed with the mosses that they do not separate from them as they would from mould. And besides this safety to the plants, the mosses are so light that the package is carried with great comparative ease."

The writer also succeeded in starting cuttings of many plants in moss, which made roots freely and much faster than they do in mould. "Such," he concludes, "are the results of my experience in this matter, and I shall be happy to hear that they are thought worthy of consideration by the Horticultural Society of London."

My space is about filled out. Comment is almost unnecessary. The communication shows how easily plants are grown in moss, and sets forth all the advantages, the only one of which appears to be the lightness of the plants when moved about, certainly a decided one where large specimens are cultivated in the parlor, and have to be moved from time to time by ladies who could hardly lift the same plants if growing in earth.

The main object is to show that growing plants in moss is nearly a century old in England, and about half a century since Mr. Chamberlain of Newport successfully raised all sorts of plants, fruits and vegetables in moss in pots. The so called *fertilized* moss loses its qualities by the use of water, which sooner or later washes out what the plants do not take up and resort must be had to liquid manure or fertilisers, just the same as if the patent article had not been made use of.

Horticulture.

SHALL WE PRUNE IN AUTUMN.

[American Agriculturist.]

To the above question which comes from several subscribers, we say decidedly, yes, provided the question applies to newly planted trees, those set last spring, or within a few years. The sooner such trees have their final shape given to them the better. This should have been done when they were planted, but between the hurry of spring work and the timidity of the inexperienced, who are afraid to cut, trees are quite too often set out just as they come from the nursery. Such trees must sooner or later be put into their final shape for bearing, and the sooner this is done, the better. Some books on fruit culture, the French especially, give diagrams to show how the tree should be shaped. These are well enough as suggestions, but as no two trees grow precisely alike, the only guides in such matters are, a general idea of the form which regulates tree growth, and common sense in their application. Working to pattern cannot be followed. If one has a young orchard, the first point to be considered is the hight at which he will make the heads of his trees. In localities where the summer is long and hot, it is claimed that low heads shade the trunk, and thus are a benefit. Others wish to have the heads high enough to allow of the passing of teams beneath them, if need be. While there is no objection to cultivating crops in a young orchard, and indeed it is better to do this than to neglect the soil entirely, the practice is becoming more general of seeding the bearing orchard to clover, and using it as a pasture for swine, to the mutual benefit of pigs and trees. The hight of the heads being decided upon, all branches that start below this should be removed. The next point should be, to secure an open and well-balanced head, with the main branches evenly disposed. Beyond this, all branches that crowd, or cross one another, all "water shoots," vigorous growths, that sometimes start up in the growing season, should be cut away. The season's growth being completed, the removal of branches at this time will cause no check, and as the branches to be cut away are all small, no large wounds will be exposed. Hence we say, by all means do such pruning in autumn, while the weather is mild, and other farm work is not pressing.

☞ The Michigan apple crop will be about two-thirds of what it was last year.

The Sheepfold.

RULES FOR SHEEP KEEPERS.

[American Cattle Journal.]

1. Keep sheep dry under foot with litter. This is even more necessary than roofing them. Never let them stand or lie in mud or water.

2. Take up lamb bucks early in the summer and keep until December following when they may be turned out.

3. Count every day.

4. Begin graining with the greatest care, and use small quantities at first.

5. If a ewe loses her lamb, milk her daily for a few days mixing a little alum with her salt.

6. Let no hogs eat with the sheep in the spring, by any means.

7. Give the lambs a little milk feed in time of weaning.

8. Never frighten sheep if possible to avoid it.

9. Some rye for weak ones in cold weather, if you can.

10. Separate all weak, thin, or sick from the strong in the fall, and give them special care.

11. If any sheep is hurt, catch it at once and wash the wound, and if it is fly-time apply spirits of turpentine daily, and wash with something healing. If a limb is broken, bind it with splinters tightly, loosening, as the limb swells.

12. Keep a number of good bells on the sheep.

13. Never let the sheep spoil wool with chaff or burs.

14. Cut tag-locks in early spring.

15. For scours give pulverized alum in wheat bran; prevent by taking great care in changing dry for green feed.

16. If one is lame examine the foot, clean out between the hoofs, if unsound and apply tobacco with blue vitriol boiled in a little water.

17. Shear at once any sheep commencing to shed its wool, unless the weather is too severe, and shave carefully the felt off any that die.

18. Have at least one good work on sheep by you to refer to.

☞ The public roads in Prussia are lined each side with a row of fruit or other useful trees, which are cared for by the government, and private companies that build high roads are obliged to similarly line them. The crop from these trees is annually rented out, and the revenue obtained helps to keep the roads in repair.

Correspondence.

WAYSIDE JOTTINGS TAKEN AMONG THE FARMERS.

Special Correspondence of the Ploughman.

Stoneham, Middlesex Co., Mass., is not usually considered a farming town as there are large manufacturing interests here, in tannery's and boot and shoe manufactories, but the amount of stable manure brought from Boston by the B. & L. R. R. last winter, and the amount of artificial fertilizers sold by the agents therefor, indicate that there are some large farmers.

One of the most productive farms in town is that on the shore of Spot Pond, now owned by *Mr. Chas. A. Frost* of Belmont, which he purchased last spring of the estate of the late Philander Ames. Having been under high cultivation for many years, though neglected last year after the death of the previous owner, it is well adapted to growing garden crops for Boston market, and the skill of the present owner has enabled him to produce profitable crops in spite of a late beginning, and the amount of work necessary to be done in taking charge of a new place. A field of Hubbard squashes planted ten feet apart is literally covered with vines, and will yield bountifully. The celery is the finest in town; and all crops look very well.

Near by, the farm owned by *J. A. Wilson* also will contribute liberally to the supplying of Boston market with vegetables. A variety of crops are grown, and their appearance is evidence of liberal manuring and careful cultivation.

In preparing one field a short time ago, Mr. Wilson turned up a curious relic of former inhabitants of the land in the shape of a stone pestle, eighteen inches long and two inches through at the larger end, tapering perfectly to one and a half inches at the other end and as smoothly finished as it done by a master workman possessed of the best tools for stone working.

At the other end of the town *John B. Tidd* has a fine dairy farm, most beautifully located, where he keeps fifteen Jersey cows, mostly pure bred. At the head of the herd stands the Jersey bull Medlar—5,182, (register A. J. C. C.) and he is raising some fine heifer calves of his get. His dairy room is fitted up with the modern conveniences, including deep cans for cold setting of the milk.

He has a large "silo" which was nearly filled last year, and is well satisfied with the results of feeding "ensilage." It was partly filled with green rye last spring, and the extensive fields of sowed corn indicate that it will be filled to its utmost capacity this fall.

Mr. Tidd uses his pastures only for young stock and dry cows, and still feeds the cows in milk.

Messrs. Thompson & Beede

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, AUG. 25, 1883.

☞ *Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.*

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL FAIR.

To be held in Manchester, N. H., Sept. 4, 5, 6 & 7, 1883.

To the Farmers, Breeders, Mechanics, Manufacturers and Artisans of New England:

The New England Agricultural Society will hold its Twentieth Annual Fair in connection with the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society, in the city of Manchester, N. H., on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th days of September, 1883.

The city of Manchester is centrally located, and is easily reached by rail from all parts of New England. It is a manufacturing city of immense importance, and has had a growth in wealth and population almost unprecedented in the history of New England cities. The City Government, as well as the citizens generally, is earnestly engaged in promoting the Fair.

The New England and New Hampshire Societies join in extending an earnest entreaty to all persons interested in the welfare and prosperity of the country; in the development of labor and labor saving machinery; in the building up of men and women in the highest walks of social and progressive life, to join in the great work of contributing the best of their products to the making up of this exhibition.

DANIEL NEEDHAM,
Secretary N. E. Agricultural Society,
45 Milk Street, Boston.

AARON YOUNG,
Secretary N. H. State Agricultural Society,
Portsmouth, N. H.

Boston, July 28, 1883. 3t4

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READY, FARMERS!

for the New England Agricultural Society's Fair.

It is now but a little more than a week to the Annual Fair of the New England Agricultural Society, at Manchester, N. H., and those who intend to exhibit and to be present ought to have completed all their preparations for this notable event of the agricultural year. The present is the last appeal that can be made to them. The time is short, and the most must be made of it. The coming Fair is to be the most brilliant and successful ever held by the Society. It is to be a combined exhibition of the New England and New Hampshire Agricultural Societies, and will take up the body of the first week of September. It leads all the local fairs in this section in point of time, as it likewise does in comprehensive interest and importance. The citizens not only of Manchester but of New Hampshire are thoroughly awake to the approaching event, and are pledging their resources to the most generous extent to guarantee a success commensurate with the high reputation of the New England Society.

The Fair Grounds themselves comprise an area of fifty acres. In connection with the exhibition grounds, a number of the leading citizens of Manchester have formed a stock company, to which the citizens at large have subscribed several thousand dollars, for the erection of commodious, substantial, and permanent buildings for exhibition purposes. It is not exaggeration to say that to-day there are no grounds in New England so completely fitted for the purposes of a great agricultural Fair as these. They are located a little more than a mile from the heart of the City, and steam trains carry visitors to and from the gate continually. Cattle may likewise be unloaded within a few rods of the pens, of which there are two hundred, of improved construction. There are several springs of cool water on the grounds, with a river in close contiguity, from which a steam engine pumps water and forces it to all parts of the grounds. The race-track is constantly sprinkled from this source, rendering it at all times solid and free from dust. The track is a half-mile one, constructed with the outer circumference at a different elevation from the inner one, and considered one of the very best in all New England.

There are sixteen box stalls, 10x12, in the track stable, the floors being laid in plank. The grand stand is erected to seat two thousand persons, and underneath it is a capacious restaurant, in which several hundred persons can be accommodated at the same time. Near by the exhibition grounds is a beautiful grove, in whose welcome shade visitors may enjoy the cool breezes sheltered from the rays of the sun. This feature is a particularly striking one, adding greatly to the attractions of the great enclosure, whose dimensions are a little in excess of those of Boston Common. As already stated, direct railroad communication between the City and the Gate is to be maintained, with a fare of but five cents each way. The exhibition hall is 55 feet by 140 feet; Jarvis Hall, in which the bench show of dogs is to be held, measures 32 by 75 feet; the poultry exhibition house measures 25 by 40 feet; and there will be provided in addition all the tent room that can possibly be in demand on the occasion. There are to be eight trots in the park, the trotting premiums amounting to $1950. Also, a ploughing match, with liberal premiums, a bench show of dogs, and a bicycle race.

These will severally constitute striking and attractive features of the general exhibition. The regular premium list has long been in the hands of the members of the New England Agricultural Society, and in fact of the whole farming community. The peculiar arrangement of the two hundred cattle pens will not fail to call forth expressions of universal satisfaction. They are placed so as to allow visitors to pass between the two rows, looking the stock in the face; and while perfect ventilation is furnished, a protecting roof sheds every drop of rain that may fall, and both visitors and cattle are out of the sun, are perfectly dry, and enjoy pure, fresh air. These arrangements are quite on a level in point of perfectness with those of the trotting park. In addition to this, quarters have been provided for the Trustees in a building on the grounds, so that in case of an impossibility of reaching decisions by any of the committees, or of any other essential differences among them, they may be at hand to supply the lacking authority. Heretofore it has been next to impossible to get the Trustees together when wanted, from not knowing where they were to be found.

Up to Saturday last, when the Executive Officers were on the grounds making a thorough examination of the situation, the entries for the Fair were, as actually recorded, larger than for any previous Fair of the New England Agricultural Society since its organization; so that the managers actually began to feel embarassed to know how to properly accommodate the unexpected amount of stock offered for exhibition, and especially from Maine and Vermont. The list is a large one which those two States make up. The display of superior cattle is to be the great feature of the Fair; and as a stimulus in that direction, the committees are to be composed in large measure of acknowledged experts, and their judgments may therefore be expected to be of the highest value and will be accepted as authority. This rapid filling up of the entry book furnishes the best of assurances that the designs of the managers that this should in particular be a grand exhibition of superior stock are to be faithfully carried out. With this as the central and substantial feature of the Fair, there can be no apprehensions that it will not be a brilliant as well as a solid success.

The people of all the New England States cannot but regard it as a special invitation to become visitors to Manchester during the first week of September, that the citizens of that city, headed by their most prominent men, are enthusiastically engaged in making the coming Fair an attraction that will draw all desires to that point. It certainly implies, aside from their own positive assertions, that every one will be welcome as a visitor and be greeted with a cordial reception. When the New England Fair was held in Manchester in 1870, the receipts amounted to $27,660, next only to the largest received at any fair ever held by the Society. Taking the entries this year as the basis of an estimate, it may confidently be asserted that the approaching exhibition will be the largest, fullest, and most thoroughly successful of any in the Society's brilliant history. Liberal terms for the transportation of stock have been conceded by the railroads centering at Manchester, and such freights will be delivered directly at the grounds. More comprehensive or thorough preparations could not well be perfected for a similar occasion.

It now remains with the Farmers themselves—of Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—to rally in the strength of a single purpose, and sustain the farmers of New Hampshire in their present effort to make a worthy, and even a magnificent, exposition of the varied products of their industry to the world. This is the farmers' occasion and opportunity. It belongs to them alone. The great public, but little acquainted at the best with the men and women, the boys and girls, that occupy the farms, is about to leave its customary avocations in order to meet the farmers on their own chosen ground and form a lasting acquaintance. The agriculturists of New England will be ready in a solid body to offer that public the heartiest of welcomes. They will first make the most extensive and imposing exhibition in their power, and next will be present in person to make it a grand reception indeed. There is no half-way spirit among farmers when they are once resolved. They are all going to New Hampshire this year to show the world what they are about, and they confidently expect that everybody will eagerly accept their cordial invitation to meet them there.

MASS. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

Bulletin for August—No. 2.

The bulletin of the Massachusetts State Agricultural Experiment Station for August, 1883, being the second one issued by Director Goessmann, is on the subject of *Fertilizer Analyses*. It states, at the start, that the valuation of Commercial Fertilizers is based on the market value of their essential constituents, the necessary information being furnished by the market reports of New York and Boston, aside from consultations with leading manufacturers of fertilizers. The subsequent statements of trade values adopted in the bulletins are obtained by taking the average New York and Boston wholesale quotations of the six months preceding March 1, 1883, and increasing them by 20 per cent. to cover expenses for storage, sales, etc. The prices stated in connection with analyses of commercial fertilizers refer, therefore, to their cost per ton of 2000 lbs., on board of car or boat. Crude stock for the manufacture of fertilizers, and refuse matter als of various descriptions, sent to the station for examination, are valued with reference to the market prices of their principal constituents, at the same time considering their general fitness for speedy action.

The general physical condition of these substances enters as an important factor into their valuation. The *mechanical* condition of any fertilizing material, simple or compound, deserves the most serious consideration of farmers when articles of a similar chemical character are offered for their choice. The degree of pulverization controls almost without exception, under similar conditions, the rate of solubility, and thus the more or less rapid diffusion of the different articles of plant food throughout the soil.

The trade values for 1883 are then given, as follows: Nitrogen in nitrates, cost, 20c per lb.; nitrogen in ammonia salts, 26c; nitrogen in Peruvian guanos, fine steamed bone, dried and fine ground blood, meat, fish, superphosphates and special manures, 23c; phosphoric acid soluble in water, 11c; phosphoric acid reverted and in Peruvian guano, 8c; phosphoric acid insoluble, in fine bone, fish guano and superphosphates, 6c; potash in high grade sulphate, 7c; potash in low grade sulphate and kainite, 4½c; potash in muriate or potarsium chloride, 4½c.

The analyses are then proceeded with, being numbered in the series with Bulletin No. 1. Those numbering from 11 to 17, inclusive, relate to Canada Wood Ashes, such as are sold in that section of the Connecticut River valley at from 33 to 35 cts. per bushel. The increasing importation of Canada ashes into various parts of the State renders it advisable to insist hereafter upon guaranteed analyses as the basis of commercial transactions. The bulletin asserts that the chief value of wood ashes as a fertilizer does not depend merely on a fair percentage of potash, but also on the presence of more or less of *all the various mineral elements essential to the growth of plants.* Wood ashes, like barnyard manure, on account of their compound character, meet to some extent at least, not only known but unknown deficiencies in valuable soil constituents. The thorough mixture of their various constituents has, no doubt, a beneficial influence on their action.

No. 18. No. 18 is an analysis of Tobacco Stems, the ash of the tobacco plant varying less in regard to absolute quantity than to the relative proportion of its essential elementary constituents. Potash is known to vary as high as 50 per cent. aside from the variety of the plant, in consequence of modes of cultivation and variety of soil. The question of the definite relation of the potash in the ash of tobacco to certain qualities of the latter, it is proposed to discuss more in detail in the annual report.

No. 19 is an analysis of Red Grass, two samples of the same sent on by the South Bristol Farmers Club, New Bedford, the first specimen having been analyzed soon after collection, and the second one after six months' exposure to atmospheric influences. A ton of the first, it is estimated, would be worth $4.38, and a ton of the second $3.90.

No. 20 is an analysis of Red Leather Shavings, sent from Marlboro', Mass. Of this it is said that its fertilizing value is practically unknown, and that whilst it is desirable that the manurial value of all suitable refuse materials from our various industries should be tested by interested parties, the incorporation of any kind of material of an unknown rate of disintegration into compound commercial fertilizers ought to be discouraged.

Nos. 21 to 23 are analyses of Peat, sent from Barnstable, Worcester, and Hampden counties.

Nos. 24 to 30 are analyses of Fish, dry fish and ground fish.

No. 31 is an analysis of Castor Pomace.

Nos. 32, 33, 34, and 35 are analyses of Complete Manures, viz., Bowker's Hill and Drily Phosphate, Quinnipiac Phosphate, XL, Superphosphate, Bradley Fertilizer Co., and LL, Crocker's Complete Manure.

The tables given in the bulletin, recording the several analyses, are well worthy of the study of all those who take the slightest interest in the quality, and therefore the value, of fertilizers or whatever kind.

☞ We are able to announce, with all reasonable confidence, that the President of the United States, together with not less three members of his cabinet, will be present as guests at the Fair in Manchester. This announcement of itself would be sufficient to attract larger numbers, the people never failing in that spirit which is at all times ready to pay respect to the Chief Magistrate. The presence of President Arthur will be sure, also, to draw many other men of public distinction to the Fair, whom the great concourse of people will be only too glad to meet face to face. The New England Agricultural Society has never lacked in hospitality to the first men of the country.

THE TELEGRAPH STRIKE.

The movement of the telegraph operators for advanced pay and better hours has finally come to naught by the yielding of the strikers. Nothing is settled by it, however, except perhaps that the strikers have learned by experience how to proceed more effectively another time, or that a public opinion has been shaped favorable to the ultimate ownership and operation of the telegraph by the Government. The managers of the telegraph company may think the victory theirs, but nothing is certain until the element of time has been stirred into it. In the first place, public opinion condemns unqualifiedly the arrogant manner in which they treated the representatives of the telegraphic fraternity who waited on them to present their case. Next, a stock that can be inflated fourfold, or from twenty millions to eighty millions, is debarred from plesding inability to earn dividends as the reason for squeezing the wages of its operators. The argument has all along been, that no profits could be made without keeping down wages. Following that argument out, if the eighty millions of stock were to be watered to a hundred millions, the wages of the operators ought to be reduced twenty-five per cent. on what they are now. A healthy competition would be more likely than anything else to set this whole matter right.

IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT.

The debate in the British parliament at the close of the session fairly uncovered the illy suppressed feelings of the leaders of the Irish party in that body. Mr. Gladstone felt called upon to openly rebuke Mr. Healy for the use of unwarranted and improper language, and the Speaker of the House finally interposed with a warning to the offending member. The London Times speaks plainly of the necessity of resorting to sterner measures, in case of a continuance of such defiant and threatening conduct. One of the Irish speakers openly declared that it was a state of war between England and Ireland, and that nothing but the weakness of the latter prevented it from becoming actual war. There is more real ground for such an assertion than the journals of England are willing to let it appear. It is concisely charged in reference to the recent land act that it has "irritated the landlords without satisfying the tenants." A Conservative committee of the House of Lords has very recently pronounced it a failure. A Liberal member of that body has admitted that severe measures would be powerless in the face of an agrarian movement and a general refusal to pay rent, and that in such a case "nothing but a change of system would avail." The landlord interest in Ireland has taken precedence of the tenant interest, and it is freely confessed in the public journals of London that England now holds Ireland only by the sword.

The Right Kind of Feeling.—It is with genuine satisfaction that we observe the improved feeling manifested toward the New England Agricultural Society, its Officers, and its Annual Fairs, by many of those agricultural journals which in the past have deemed it wiser to show nothing but hostility. The change is a welcome one, and is gratefully acknowledged. The Society long ago earned the unqualified support of every agricultural interest in New England. Its most active and prominent executive officers—President Loring and Secretary Needham—have for a score of years devoted themselves to the upbuilding of the Society as an agricultural influence and power in this section. They have freely spent time and money, in their chosen work, and if any individuals merit the laudations and thanks of the entire agricultural community, it is they. Let the present be an era of good feeling.

The venerable Marshall P. Wilder will deliver the address at the approaching biennial session of the *American Pomological Society* at Philadelphia, Sept. 12, 1883; and it will not fail to be in his customary style of cordial eloquence and grace. President Wilder is now in the eighty-fifth year of his age, which fairly entitles him to be called both venerable and veteran. It will be worth a journey half across the continent to see and hear a speaker of that great age, mellowed with time, ripe with experience, and making his utterances with the rhapsody of an ancient prophet. He will be sure to receive a greeting such as is never accorded to young men in similar positions. The meeting of the Society will have a representation from every section of the continent. The Massachusetts Horticultural Society is to send twenty-five delegates. Those who have the management in Philadelphia are making great preparations for the reception of their welcome guests from all parts of America.

The Grange at the Fair.—Special arrangements are making to provide the members of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry with convenient headquarters on the Fair grounds at Manchester, and a full representative attendance of the Order is expected. It will be under the supervision of a committee of Past Masters of the State Granges of the several New England States, with Benjamin P. Ware as the Chairman.

Death of Judge Black.—The decease of this distinguished jurist occurred at his home in York, Penn., last Sabbath morning. He was calm and peaceful to the last. To his son, who stood at his bedside, he said—"I would that I were as comfortable about what I leave behind in this world" as about the future. His beloved wife knelt by his bedside, and after receiving the last proofs of her sympathy and love he offered this prayer; "O, Thou beloved and most merciful Father, from whom I had my being and in whom I have ever trusted, grant, it it by Thy will, that I no longer suffer this agony, and that I be speedily called home to Thee And oh, my God, bless and comfort this, my Mary!" These are the last reported words uttered by him. Judge Black was a Christian, or Cambellite, the same faith as that of the late President Garfield.

Foot and Mouth Disease.—Acting Secretary of the Treasury French has addressed a letter to the Secretary of State, enclosing a slip containing a cable dispatch from England, in which the charge is made to the Commons that the quarantine system in the United States furnished no guarantee that the disease would not be exported with cattle. A countervailing report from the Treasury Cattle Commission is also enclosed, in which the existence of the disease among the cattle of the United States is emphatically denied, and that whatever manifestations of it had ever been made here were only importations from England itself. The stringent regulations concerning the quarantining of cattle are pointed to in refutation of the statement as that point made in the House of Commons.

Decay of Country Towns.—The celebration of the centennial anniversary of the settlement of the town of Benson, Vt., lying in the northwest corner of Rutland Co., and ten miles from a railroad, which in 1830 contained 1493 inhabitants, but now contains only 1104, excites our contemporary, the Boston Advertiser to sundry reflections on the decadence of the New England hill towns Forty years ago says the Advertiser, Benson was one of the most flourishing places of the State; now it is a sleepy and almost lifeless village. Speaking of the experience of such towns, it says,—"The district schools have but two or three tow headed pupils, the ministers have sought fatter flocks, the farmhouses are vacant, while the young men and women form an increasing procession to the cities, and the little graveyard is the only part of the town which grows in importance and numbers."

THE BOOMER & BOSCHERT CIDER PRESS will be on exhibition at the New England Fair at Manchester, under the special management of Mr. O. F. Boomer, who will be ready to explain the merits of the Press to all interested. See advertisement.

"O'Donnell, the murderer of the informer, James Carey, will be tried for the crime in England, and for that purpose will be sent home immediately.

A consolidation of three telegraph companies —the Postal, the American Rapid, and the Bankers and Merchants—is talked of in Washington as an almost assured fact.

Even those Journals which indulged in slashing and acrid criticisms of Judge Black when living, join in extolling his great, varied, and sterling qualities now that he is dead.

According to the Toronto Globe, the Canadian Pacific has received of the Canadian government, for the last 674 miles of road constructed, about twenty-two millions of dollars more than it cost.

On Monday afternoon last, a public parade of some four thousand Knights Templars occurred in San Francisco, the pageant being pronounced by far the most brilliant of any ever witnessed on the Pacific coast.

The Gaulois deplores the inability of France to contract any alliance. It says—"America is England's rival. America has already approached Russia. Why should not Russia be a hyphen between America and France?"

De Lesseps and others recently enjoyed a ride in a Paris omnibus that was propelled by electricity. It is announced that the new motor will now take the place of horses, but capitalists think the cost is too great at present.

A grain sale will occur at Vienna on the 28th, inst., which is to be international in its character. It will incidentally show the agricultural output of Russia and the other grain countries, on own excepted.

Fitch, the defaulting cashier of the Second National Bank of Warren, Ohio, reached Boston last Sunday evening in his flight, and soon afterwards gave himself up to the authorities. He lost $80,000 of the bank's funds in speculating.

Rumors having for some time been in circulation that one or more cases of yellow fever existed at Pensacola, the Navy Department has directed that rigid investigations be made respecting its origin. The court of inquiry is now sitting.

The Hudson river tunnel between New York and Jersey City has proceeded 1600 of the 5500 feet to be excavated, and the engineer says that in three years regular passenger trains will be run under the Hudson River, and the ferry transfer trains be done away with forever.

The latest statement of it is that that there were too many telegraph operators, there being 20,000 altogether. And so in other departments of labor. And that is the reason why wages are low. The country cannot consume what would be produced if all laborers were occupied full time the year round.

The Spanish government is said to have addressed an energetic note to France, which is supposed to mean a claim for the expulsion of Zorilla from French territory. It is rumored that France has received a collective note, signed by Germany, Austria and Russia, speaking in harsh terms of her conduct.

The announcement of Pope Leo XIII to certain Cardinals that he has no desire to stand in the way of the development and progress of Italy, has excited wild interest in Europe and given rise to a great variety of interpretations. The Pope is far more diplomatic than his predecessor, and is the only man in all Europe who has yet openly vanquished Bismark.

READ AND RUN.

— The last words of a Boston newsboy, who was mortally wounded by a railroad train, were —"What'll poor mother do?"

— The study of dressmaking has been introduced by the French government into elementary schools, teachers being provided, and in Paris a twenty days' course of lessons in cutting and fitting. The pupils are thus enabled to wear better dresses, and are taught how to economise material also.

— Complete isolation in preventing infection by cholera has in numerous striking instances proved itself completely successful.

— Landed property to the value of fifty million dollars is at the present time on sale in England, including all forms of real estate. And sales are slow, although there is at all times in the London money market not less than five hundred million dollars awaiting investment. Land in England notoriously brings in but small returns.

— The Niagara rapids, since the death of Capt. Webb in them, have been studied as they never were before.

— The exhibition at the Chicago railway exposition of tubular steel freight cars has brought up the subject of the feasibility of building passenger cars of the same material.

— Published English railway returns for 1882 show an enormous increase in capitalisation.

— The police commissioners have issued two thousand liquor licenses this year for the city of Boston.

— The fruit traffic between the Northern and Southern markets has largely increased this season.

— Mr. Vanderbilt's famous mare, Maud S., has been successfully photographed at Saratoga. She is worth it.

— Capt. Mann, a Maine man, claims to have in his possession the under jaw bone of Francisco Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, having taken it from the vault of the cathedral in Callao. He should at once restore it to its place.

— The dignitaries and elderly men used to dance at Saratoga. Martin Van Buren was always ready to join in a quadrille or minuet.

— When a broker fails now a-days, almost the first remark heard about it is that it occasions no great surprise on the street.

— Switzerland has prohibited the importation of Egyptian cotton.

— State advices from London indicate a similar decline in stocks to that in progress on this side of the Atlantic, and not in stocks only but in the earnings of banks and discount companies

— The late ex-Attorney General Marston, who was buried last week, was sixty-one years of age at the time of his death.

— The telegraph operators have been applying for reinstatement in their old places.

— Only 46,220 emigrants arrived in July at the ten principal revenue districts of the country, against 66,000 during July of last year.

— It is now denied that Mr. Gladstone was ever a subscriber to the Confederate cotton loan.

— A Lowell clergyman has recently returned from Minnesota in the wagon in which he set out, having occupied fourteen months in making the journey.

— They put convicts in Alabama to work in the coal mines, and the death rates are fearful.

— The humorous artist of Punch, who is coming over to this country, Du Maurier, first brought Oscar Wilde into publicity by his caricatures of the æsthetes.

— It has just been scientifically discovered that the cremation of yellow fever victims will become a future necessity.

— Joseph F. Paul and Company, lumber dealers of Boston, have suspended payment.

— The despatches sent East daily from the President's camping-place are specimens of colored composition, if not of imagination also.

— There was a great deal more copper consumed in the United States in 1882 than was produced in 1878. The electric light system is calling into use a good deal of copper. It is estimated that if pure copper could be sold at ten cents per pound, with profit to the producer, the consumption in the United States could be doubled very soon.

— The experiment is to be tried by the German authority, of sending a completely equipped hospital ship with the Baltic squadron on its evolutionary cruise, with the ultimate intention that in any future naval war a ship of this kind shall accompany the fleet into action, so designated that the enemy shall refrain from firing at her.

— A healthier feeling is showing itself in business circles, and the panicky feeling that grew out of the recent failures has almost wholly subsided.

— The decision of the United States Circuit Court at Boston, last Saturday, in the case of a captain charged with bringing a Chinese laborer to this port, in alleged violation of the new law of the United States, is that the term "Chinese laborer" can have no other meaning than the one which limits it to the subjects of China. As the Chinaman in question is a British subject, by virtue of being a native of Hong Kong.

— The President is reported to be enjoying the fishing and hunting in the western mountains with the keenest zest.

— Eli, says a modern hunter, are royal game. They are large, wary, and fleet. The flesh of a two-year-old, or of a barren cow, is high flavored and tender. It is the only wild meat that is superior to corn fed beef. The animals have fattened on the sweet, tender grass that grows at the edges of snow banks. They have drunk pure, cold spring water, and breathed pure air.

— The Richmond home of Edgar Allan Poe, known as the Allan house, is to be converted into a hotel and kept by a woman who was once a leader of fashion in that city. In this house is the room in which Poe composed "The Raven."

— In the foreign exhibition in Boston, which is to begin next month, there will be about one thousand paintings, bronzes and statues.

— This year's international cricket match between the United States and Canada has resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Americans.

— A medical report made at Panama decides that cremation alone will check the spread of yellow fever.

— Our national lack is declared to be that of recuperating sleep.

— Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, the ex Confederate, does not sympathize with the views expressed by Jefferson Davis in his recent letter.

— An important part of the solution of this great problem of poverty and crime lies in cleanly surroundings and wholesome food.

— Compared with Paris theatres, those of London are materially far more comfortable.

— Prof. David Swing was born in Cincinnati, and is fifty-two years old.

— The beautiful berries are now blazing red on the mountain-ash trees.

— The recently published private letters of Hawthorne only serve to show how very much of "a man and brother" he was, after all.

— The pedestal for the Bartholdi Statue is making commendable progress. Funds are coming in liberally, and the contract has been let for laying the foundation, which will be 67 feet and 8 inches above low water mark, the pedestal being 112 feet high.

— It has been recently declared by a woman before a committee on labor and education in New York, that there are at least five thousand women in New York and Brooklyn who would be glad to obtain work at any price. Immigration is alleged to be the cause of such a state of things.

— The beautiful suburban gardens are now enjoyed by the admiring public, their owners being away.

— The annual Salisbury Beach gathering will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 5th and 6th.

☞ Ayer's Ague Cure is intended to act as an antidote to malarial fevers, and all diseases generated by marsh, swamp or slough. Science has brought this remedy nigh to perfection. No quinine, no arsenic, nor injurious drugs enters into its composition. Chemistry and the healing art have combined to make it the curative triumph of the age we live in.

— Describing the earthquake at Ischia, a writer says—"How shall I describe the spectacle that presented itself to my eyes when I entered the town? Imagine enormous piles of masonry forming barricades in the streets, walls still standing, beams pointing skyward, broken furniture, yawning abysses, confused and entangled masses of planks and beams, and all this throughout an immense extent of streets, and piled up almost perpendicularly. On approaching the ruins cries for help and piercing shrieks could be distinctly heard. All through the night those poor people called for help with nobody to help them."

☞ How to mitigate the toil of wash-day during these hot summer months is worth knowing, we are assured that James Pyle's Pearline does it effectually, without the slightest danger o the finest fabrics.

A terrific rain storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, visited the northwest part of Ontario, Canada, Sunday. At Listowell the water was two feet deep in the streets, several buildings and bridges were carried away, and the destruction to property generally was very great. At Wingham the river Maitland rose 12 feet. The railway bridge and track were washed away, and the country roads are covered with four feet of water. A large quantity of standing grain was destroyed.

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE RAILROADS AND THE NEW ENGLAND FAIR.

The railroad companies of New England have never been backward or even indifferent in regard to the success of the annual Fairs of the New England Agricultural Society. They especially did generous co-operative work at Worcester, which told effectively on the series of signal successes there achieved by the Society While the amount of freight transportation increased visibly each year, the railroad companies did not once suggest a relaxation of their accommodating spirit. If anything, they grew only more liberal. They will show themselves as active and efficient friends of the Fair at Manchester this year as they have done in past years at other centres. We give below a list of those roads which have already expressed their readiness to repeat the favorable propositions of past years to such as contemplate the shipment either of animals or goods to the Fair at Manchester. The freights to be prepaid; and when shipped for return over the same roads, on presentation of the certificate of the Secretary that they have been on exhibition, the ownership remaining as before, the return freight will not be collected. Other roads will increase the list next week:—

Boston and Albany Railroad.
Boston and Maine Railroad.
Central Vermont Railroad.
Concord Railroad.
Boston and Lowell Railroad.
Cheshire Railroad.
Eastern and Maine Central Railroad.
New York and New England Railroad.
Northern Railroad.
Providence and Worcester Railroad.
Worcester and Nashua Railroad.
Portland and Rochester Railroad.
Northern and New London Railroad.
Boston, Barre and Gardner Railroad.
Boston, Concord and Montreal Railroad.

MAYOR BEATTY'S BIRTHDAY

Mayor Beatty, the organ builder, of Washington, New Jersey, celebrated his thirty-fifth birthday on the 14th inst. The Mayor, although still young, has accomplished more than falls to the lot of any one man in a million in a lifetime, and it is not too much to say that his name will pass down to history enrolled with Vanderbilt, Gould, Garrett, Sage, and others of the most successful business men of our times.

— The departments of State and Justice at Washington were closed on Tuesday, out of respect for the memory of Judge Black. The buildings of both will be draped in black for thirty days.

☞ Why is Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound like the Mississippi river in a spring freshet? Because the immeuse volume of this healing river moves with such momentum that it sweeps away all obstacles and is literally flooding the country.

— As the New York Sun states it, the par which electricity is to play in the comfort and progress of the human race is only beginning its development, but it is obvious that this is the coming motor, as it already is the wondrous messenger of mankind.

☞ "When a thing is once begun, it is almost half finished." If you, reader, have dyspepsia, constipation, biliousness, or any disorder arising from impure blood, begin taking West Shores Bitters. Care once half finished, likely completed by the first bottle.

— Bismarck has taken a heavy contract, besides making Germany disagreeable to all her neighbors, in trying to keep the American hog out of that country.

MINISTERS SOUND ITS PRAISE.

Rev. Mr. Greenfields, Knoxville, Tenn., writes as follows: "*Samaritan Nervine* permanently cured my son of epileptic fits." Here's food for thought. Sold by druggists, $1.50.

— A financial writer for a New York journal says that the sales of half a million shares every day puts butter in the spinach of every commission house.

☞ Sprains, Lameness, Pains and Stitches, Weak Back or Disease of the spine will be immediately relieved on application ot a *Hop Plaster* over the affected part. It's penetrating power is wonderful. Warranted to be the best made.

— It is currently estimated that more than seventy per cent. of the population of Massachusetts have their homes in towns of more than ten thousand inhabitants. The State has a larger number of cities of 20,000 or upwards than has any other State.

NO TROUBLE TO SWALLOW

Dr. Pierce's "Pellets" (the original "little

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KE ALL THE
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Medicines,
OOD
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MARKET, BOSTON,

otail Prices.

ready for the Ploughman, for the week ending Aug. 25.

BEEF, &c.

b..27	30	Beef Liver	8@10
	30	Beef Tongue	10@12
	30	Veal Cutlets	20@22
	30	Smoked Beef	10@12
	30	Beef Tongue, salt	10@12

Pork, Lard, &c.

lb	10@11	Smoked Sheuld's	11@11
	10@11	Smoked Ribs	11@12
	10@11	Sausage	12@15
	10@11	Pigs' Feet	4@5
	10@11	Lard, leaf	11@11

Veal and Mutton.

	30	Mutton, R'ns	6@8
	30	Mutton, Shoulder	6@8
	30	Mutton, Stew	4@6
	30	Mutton, Shoulder, roast	6@8
	30	Leg Lamb, R'g'l'g	12@14
	30	Lamb, Stew	6@8
	30	Lamb, Shoulder, roast	8@10
	30	Veal Cutlets	20@22

Poultry, Game, &c.

	30	Pigeons, wild, doz	30@32
	30	Pigeons, tame, doz	30@32
	30	Philadelphia Chickens	30@32
	30	Widgeon, pair	50@
	30	Teal, ♥ pair	75@
	30	Ducks, pair	75@1 00
	30	Ducks, pair	75@1 00
	30	Ducks, dozen	6 00
	30	Brant, ♥ pair	1 00@2 00
	30	Canvas-back, pair	4 00@5 00
	30	Plover, dozen	3 00
	30	Rabbits, each	6@ 25
	30	Chickens, ♥ lb	14@16
	30	Woodcock	75@1 00
	30	Flag, roasting	3@4

Butter, Cheese, &c.

	30	Fair to good do	14@16
	30	Farm	20@22
	30	Eastern	12@14
	30	Northern	13@15
	30	Western	14@16
	30	Cape	24@25

Fruit and Vegetables.

	30	Potatoes	2 00@2 25
	30	Onions, bush	2 75@3 00
	30	Beans, white—Medium, bu	2 60
	30	Pea, bush	2 75
4 00@5 50		Squashes, cwt	2 00
	30	Rhubarb ♥ bbl, new	6 00
	30	Marrow, bbl	1 75@2 00
	30	Cabbages, head	10@ 25
	30	Carrots, bu	40
	30	Turnips, per bush	40
	30	Onions, per pk	40
	30	Cucumbers, each	2@ 3
	30	Lettuce ♥ head	5@ 10
	30	Tomatoes	5@ 10
	30	Rubbard, $	2@3
	30	Marrow, bu	40
	30	Squashes, each	5@ 10
	30	Egg Plants, new	5@ 10
	30	Dried Apples, ♥ lb	5@6
	30	Pickles, ♥ gallon	40
	30	Cucumbers	5@ 10
	30	Marmorine	5@ 10
	30	Limes, doz	20
	30	Lemons, new imp, box	6 00
	30	per doz	40@ 50
	30	Blackberries, qt	6@ 8
	30	Artichokes, ♥ bu	1 00
	30	per doz	25
	30	bbl	2 00
	30	bush	1 50@2 00
	30	per doz	2 00
	30	per crate	2 00@2 25
	30	per bush	2 00@2 25
	30	per quart	6 00@8 00
	30	per bush	1 00@1 50

ON SEED MARKET.

RETAIL PRICES.			
30	1 00	Hung'n Grass, ♥ bush	2 00
		Millet, bush	1 50@1 75
		Red Top, sak	3 00
17	25	R. I. Bent, bu	2 00
25	50	Winter Rye, ♥ bush	1 00
25	50	Ky. Blue Grass	1 00@2 00
30	3 00	Orch'd Grass, ♥ bush	2 00
30@	2 50	Golden Millet	1 25@1 50

New England Fair.

SCALE OF POINTS OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE YEAR 1883.

As established by the New York State Agricultural Society.

Adopted by the New England Agricultural Society for the government of Exhibitors of Cattle at their Fair, to be held at Manchester, N.H. Sept. 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1883.

POINTS IN A SHORTHORN COW.

Pedigree—Should show unbroken descent on both sides, from known animals derived from English Herds, as found in the English or American Herd Books, *and without this no animal cannot compete in this class.*

Head—Small, lean and bony, tapering to the muzzle.....5

Face—Somewhat long, the fl say portion of the nose of a light delicate color.....4

Eye—Prominent, bright and clear; prominent, from an accumulation of adipose substance in the socket, indicating a tendency to lay on fat; "thick," as an evidence of good disposition; "coarse," as a guarantee of good health.....5

Horns and Ears—The horns should be light in substance, waxy in color, and symmetrically set on the head. The ears should be large, thin and with considerable action.....1

Neck—Rather short than long, tapering to the head clean in the throat, and full at its base, the two ridges uniting and filling out the points to the shoulders.....5

Chest—Broad from point to point of the Shoulders, and deep from the anterior dorsal vertebræ to the floor of the sternum, and both round and full just back of the elbows, or, in other words "thick through the heart.".....4

Back—Wide and projecting, indicating a disposition to lay on fat.....5

Loin—Wide, even with the Shorthorn.....4

Rump—Long and wide, not drooping, but rather inclining to fall from the hips to the tail, and somewhat upright and of a uniform width at the points, with the blade bone just sufficiently curved to bend its upper portion slightly with the ribs.....5

Hips—Wide apart, and on a level with the shoulders.....5

Rump—Long up high, with plenty of flesh on it.....5

Tail—Broad at the root, and tapering to a fine point, indicated by the width of the hips (as already mentioned,) and the tail should be well filled out in its full length.....4

Thighs—Full and broad, and filling out even and wide plain between the hind legs.....4

Twist—Broad and full, extending well down on each side of the thigh, with corresponding width; a broad twist is a good indication of a butcher's cut.....4

Hind Quarters—Large and thoroughly developed in their upper and more valuable portions, as beef. The thigh gradually tapering to the hock, but not muscular.....6

Carcass—Round throughout, full and capacious, with the under line of the belly level or nearly so.....3

Flank—Full and wide.....3

Legs—Straight, upright, firmly placed to support the superincumbent weight; a strong back sinew, but by no means a large, coarse cannon-bone.....3

Plates—Of the belly strong, and thus preserving near r a straight under line.....3

Udder—Should be pliable, and thin in its texture, indicated by its moderate size, straight fore and rear attachments, and of convenient size.....3

Teats—Fine and broad at its root, but fine in its end and placed high up and on a level with the corners of the udder.....3

The Coat—Should be thick, short and mossy, rather hair in winter; fine, soft and glossy in summer.....4

Handling—The handling of the animal gives style and grace to the walk should be square; the step quick and elastic.....4

Condition—Should be the thriftiness, the feeding quality and the value of the animal dep. nds; but as much of this quality rests in a good constitution, and the other is judged by the grazier's and butcher's judgment, some deficiency may be excused; but, if it be hard and soft, nothing can compensate for so unpromising a habit.....5

Skin—Should be loose, and when pinched up with the thumb and finger should have a soft, mellow and substantial feel; and when pinched the outspread hand it should move easily with it and not be so adherent to the flesh as to give a harsh and wiry feeling to objectionable.....5

Carriage—Should be light, active and even gay; this latter appearance is much promoted by the upward tarn of the horn.....1

Symmetry—Should be even throughout; the skin to be of medium thickness only, moving freely under the hand, and evincing a readiness in the animal to take on flesh when a drain on the constitution is no longer made by the milk pail....6

100

POINTS OF THE AYRSHIRE BULL.

The points desirable in the female are generally so in the male, but must of course be attended with that masculine character which is inseparable from a strong and vigorous constitution. Even a certain degree of coarseness is admissible; but then it must be so exclusively of masculine description as never to be discovered in the female of his get.

In contradistinction to the cow, the head of the bull may be shorter, the fronta bone broader, and the occipital flat and stronger, that it may receive and sustain the horn; this latter being equally as much a characteristic of the male, so the field. It can be guaged to spread different amounts to the sex on the farmer knows exact by the amount of manure he is using.

Field- where the Spreader is in use can be distinguished from all others by the quality of the crops.

It will more than save its cost in a single year.

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A Safeguard.

The fatal rapidity with which slight **Colds** and **Coughs** frequently develop into the gravest maladies of the throat and lungs, is a consideration which should impel every prudent person to keep at hand, as a household remedy, a bottle of AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL.

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"I have never found, in thirty-five years of continuous study and practice of medicine, any preparation of so great value as AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL, for treatment of diseases of the throat and lungs. It not only breaks up colds and cures severe coughs, but is more effective than anything else in relieving even the most serious **bronchial** and **pulmonary** affections."

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AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL has, in numberless instances, cured obstinate cases of chronic **Bronchitis, Larngytis,** and even acute **Pneumonia,** and has saved many patients in the earlier stages of **Pulmonary Consumption.** It is a medicine that only requires to be taken in small doses, is pleasant to the taste, and is needed in every house where there are children, as there is nothing so good as AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL for treatment of **Croup** and **Whooping Cough.**

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HANDLES all kinds of Manure found on the Farm. It takes the coarsest manure and applies it perfectly to the field, covering every square inch of ground with finely pulverized manure, insuring rapid growth and uniform crops in all parts of the field. It can be guaged to spread different amounts to the acre so the farmer knows exact by the amount of manure he is using.

Field- where the Spreader is in use can be distinguished from all others by the quality of the crops.

It will more than save its cost in a single year.

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Scale of Points Continued.

and *muscular*, for it is an indication of strength, power and constitution. The spine should be strong, the bones of the loins long and broad, and the whole muscular system wide, and thoroughly developed over the whole frame.

POINTS IN THE AYRSHIRE COW.

[Purity of blood, as traced back to importation of both dam and sire, or to the American Ayrshire Herd Book.]

Head—As in other breeds, small, the face long and narrow; the muzzle and nose variable in col r.....

Eye—Placid, and not strikingly large.....2

Ear—Of full size, and of an orange color within.....

Horns—Small, tapering, with an outward and upward turn, and set on wide apart; the face somewhat dishing.....2

Neck—Of medium length, clean in the throat, very light throughout and tapering to the head..4

Shoulders—Lying snugly to the body, thin at their tops, small at their points, not long in the blades, not turned out with muscle.....

Chest—Must retain sufficient width and roundness to insure constitution. The lightness of the fore quarter, and the "wedge shape" of the animal, from the hind quarter, forward and rising more from a small, flat, and thin shoulder than from any undue narrowness of the chest.....12

Crop—Easily blend in with so thin a shoulder, and present all hollowness behind.....4

Brisket—Not overloading the fore end, but light.....

Barrel—Should be straight, and the loins wide, the hips rather high and well spread.....8

Pelvis—Roomy, causing a good breadth at what is termed the "thurl" or "round bone," between the points of the hips.....

Quarters—Long, tolerably muscular, and full in their upper portion, but moulding into the thighs below, which should have a degree of flatness, affording thus more space for a full udder. The flank will let down but not heavy..6

Ribs—Behind springing out very round and full, affording space for a large budder, which by Ayrshire breeders is considered very essential to secure the milking property; the whole carcass thus acquiring increased volume towards its posterior portion.....

Rumps—Nearly level with the back, projecting but little.....

Tail—In its cord, of full length, light in its hair, and set some what further into the back than would be admissible in soms other breeds.1

Legs—Delicate and fine in the bone, inclining to be short, and well set together at the joints..3

Udder—In this breed it is of more special importance, as the Ayrshires have been bred almost excusively with reference to their milking properties. The great feature of the udder should be capacity without being fleshy. It should be carried squarely and broadly forward, and show little falling to the behind. As it rises upward, it should not mingle too immediately with the muscle of the thigh-, but continue to preserve its own *peculiar* textures of skin—tain, delicate, and supple in the extreme. The teats should be set apart, and be lengthy, but not large and coarse.....12

Hair—Soft and thick, in the phraseology of the country, wooly.....4

Color—Varies; a dark red, a rich brown, a liver color, or mahogany, running into almost a black; those very much broken and spotty at the edges on a white ground are favorite colors at the present time. The light yellow, is, however, a color sometimes found on very good cows, but these pale colors are objected to from an impression that such belong to animals of less constitution.....

Carriage—Should be light, active and even gay; this latter appearance is much promoted by the upward tarn of the horn.....1

Symmetry—Should be even throughout; the skin to be of medium thickness only, moving freely under the hand, and evincing a readiness in the animal to take on flesh when a drain on the constitution is no longer made by the milk pail....6

100

POINTS OF THE AYRSHIRE BULL.

The points desirable in the female are generally so in the male, but must of course be attended with that masculine character which is inseparable from a strong and vigorous constitution. Even a certain degree of coarseness is admissible; but then it must be so exclusively of masculine description as never to be discovered in the female of his get.

In contradistinction to the cow, the head of the bull may be shorter, the fronta bone broader, and the occipital flat and stronger, that it may receive and sustain the horn; this latter being equally as much a characteristic of the male, so its upward form, its quality and color be right. Neither is the looseness of the skin attached to the head, so prominent in the cow, to be deemed other than a feature of the sex, *provided* it is not extended beyond the bone, but leaves the gullet and throat clean and free from dewlap.

The upper portion of the neck should be full and *muscular*; for it is an indication of strength, power and constitution. The spine should be strong, the bones of the loin long and broad, and the whole muscular system wide and thoroughly developed over the entire frame.

POINTS IN A HEREFORD COW.

[Purity of blood, as traced back to the satisfaction of committees, to imported blood on both sides from known English breeders, or as found in Eyton's Hereford rierds Book, or Herd Books of the American Stock Breeder's Association.]

Head—Moderately small, with a good width of forehead, tapering to the muzzle; the cheek bone rather d ep, but clean in the jaw.....5

Nose—Light in its color, and the head free from fleshiness.....2

Eye—Full, mild and cheerful in expression..2

Ears—Of medium size.....1

Horns—L ght and tapering, long and spreading, with an outward and upward turn, giving a gay and lofty expression to the whole head....2

Neck—Of medium length, full in its junction with the shoulders, spreading out over the shoulder points, and tapering finely to the head 2

Chest—Broad, round and deep; its floor running well back of the elbows, which, with a springing fore rib, gives great interior capacity to this all important portion of the body.....14

Brisket—*When in flesh*, largely developed, descending in front to the knee, and deep, by covering the anterior portion of the sternum, or breast bone, but never interfering with the action of the animal when in working condition.....14

Shoulder—Lying snugly and closely in toward the top, and spreading toward the points the blades sloping somewhat back, and running pretty well up into the withers, which by giving a very r fle above the level line on the back, gives to the ox a very upstanding and beautiful fore end. The whole shoulder well clothed with muscle.....

Crops—Filling all up evenly behind the shoulders, and blending them in smoothly with the muscles of th back.....

Back—Long and strong should be broad, wide and level.....

Rumps—Should lie nearly or quite level with the back, and their covering should be abundant, mellow, loose and freely moving under the hand, thus showing great aptitude to fatten.....

Pelvis—Roomy, indicated by wide hips (as already mentioned), and the space between the rumps, which should stand well apart, giving a general breadth to the posterior portions of the animal.....

Twist—Broad and full, extending well down on each side of the thigh, with corresponding width; a broad twist is a good indication of a butcher's cut.....

Hind Quarters—Large and thoroughly developed in their upper and more valuable portions, as beef. The thigh gradually tapering to the hock, but muscular.....6

Carcass—Round throughout, full and capacious, with the under line of the belly level or nearly so.....3

Flank—Full and wide.....3

Legs—Straight, upright, firmly placed to support the superincumbent weight; a strong back sinew, but by no means a large, coarse cannon-bone.....3

Plates—Of the belly strong, and thus preserving near r a straight under line.....3

Udder—Should be pliable, and thin in its texture, indicated by its moderate size, straight fore and rear attachments, and of convenient size.....3

Teats—Fine and broad at its root, but fine in its end and placed high up and on a level with the corners of the udder.....3

The Coat—Should be thick, short and mossy, rather hair in winter; fine, soft and glossy in summer.....4

Handling—The handling of the animal gives style and grace to the walk should be square; the step quick and elastic.....4

Condition—Should be the thriftiness, the feeding quality and the value of the animal dep. nds; but as much of this quality rests in a good constitution, and the other is judged by the grazier's and butcher's judgment, some deficiency may be excused; but, if it be hard and soft, nothing can compensate for so unpromising a habit.....5

Skin—Should be loose, and when pinched up with the thumb and finger should have a soft, mellow and substantial feel; and when pinched the outspread hand it should move easily with it and not be so adherent to the flesh as to give a harsh and wiry feeling to objectionable.....5

Carriage—Should be light, active and even gay; this latter appearance is much promoted by the upward tarn of the horn.....1

Symmetry—Should be even throughout; the skin to be of medium thickness only, moving freely under the hand, and evincing a readiness in the animal to take on flesh when a drain on the constitution is no longer made by the milk pail....6

100

POINTS OF THE SHORTHORN BULL.

Most of the points desirable in the female are generally so in the male, but, of course, should be more masculine in their character as inseparable from a strong, vigorous constitution. Even a certain degree of coarseness is admissible; but then it must be so exclusively of a masculine description as never to be discovered in the females of his ge.

In contradistinction to the cow, the head of the bull may be shorter, the frontal bone broader, and the occipital flat and stronger that it may receive and sustain the horn; and this latter may be excused if it be coarse, in raising the fein from the base, so its upward form, its quality and color be right. Neither is the looseness of the skin attached to, and depending from the under jaw to be deemed other than a feature of the sex, *provided* it is not extended beyond the bone, but leaves the gullet and throat clear and free from dewlap.

The upper portion of the neck should be full and *muscular*; for it is an indication of strength, power and constitution. The spine should be strong, the bones of the loin long and broad, and the whole muscular system wide and thoroughly developed over the entire frame.

POINTS IN A DEVON COW.

[Purity of blood as traced back satisfactorily to importations of both dam and sire, from known English breeders, or as found in the lately established Herd book for North Devons, and without this an animal cannot compete in this class.

The Head—Should be small, lean and bony; the forehead wide, flat, or, from fullness of the frontal bone over the eyes, somewhat dishing; the face short and straight; the muzzle fine; the nostrils open; the lips thin and rather flat.....4

The Nose—Of a light, delicate orange.....4

The Eye—Full, bright and bold, prominent and clear, but mild and gentle in its expression, as indicative of that spirited but tractable disposition so necessary to cattle that must bear the yoke; and the encircling orbital ring should invariably surround the eye.....4

The Ear—Thin, of a fine range color within and without, and well set on, quick and ready in movement, clear evidence of attention.....2

The Horns—Light, tapering, of a waxy color, toward the extremity, and gaily as well as symmetrically set on the head. The occipital bone narrow, thus bringing the base of the horns nearer together than in coarser breeds.....2

The Neck—Of moderate length, somewhat light in substance, very clean, and well set upon the shoulders.....2

The Chest—Deep and round, carrying its tuller development well forward, thus affording room for the action of the heart and lungs, and that, too, without an extreme width forward and consequent coarseness of shoulders, which might interfere with the action of the animal.....10

The Brisket—As it adds nothing to the internal capacity, is, must for several reasons, be avoided in the breast, but be sufficiently deve oped to guarantee a lasting property, attended with a full proj ction from the fore legs.....

The Shoulders—In this breed a very beautiful and important point, and should, in a descending line, form to that of a horse. It should be a more sloping position than is found in most other breeds, with its points less pronoun ed and angular, and the blade bone more curved, thus ascending with and forming a fine rising little above the level of the back.....4

The Legs—Short and straight, and standing square and even.....3

The Chine—Full and even, forming a true line with a somewhat rising shoulder and level back, rather than dipping behind.....9

Back, Loin and Hips—Broad and wide, running on a level with the setting on of the tail.....9

The Rump—Long broad apart, high, and well covered.....

The Pelvis—Wide.....2

The Twist—Full and broad.....3

The Thighs—Full, and thoroughly filled up between the hocks or hip bones and the rumps, with a good muscular development down the legs to the hocks.....

The Flank—Not unduly deep, full and mellow in proportion to condition.....3

The Legs—Not too short, and standing as straight and square behind as the hocks justify with activity. The bone quite small below the hock and knee; the sinews large and clean, with the fore arm well develo ed.....

The Carcass—Round and straight, its interior thin almost r ceiler, extending well back and springing nearly horizontally from the vertebræ, giving in front a much greater capa ity than would at first appear.....2

The Udder—Should be such as will afford the best promise of capacity and product.....

The Hair—Should be short, fine, soft, close, and, if showing on its surface a fine curl or ripple, it looks richer in color, and is supposed to indicate a hardier and more thrifty animal..2

Color—In its *shades and degrees* is more considered by fashion, but, in the Devon, is always red. Formerly a rich blood red was the favorite color and test of purity; and now a somewhat lighter color is in vogue. In all cases the color grows lighter around the muzzle, while a dark mahogany color, verging almost to a black, and growing yet darker about the head, always a very questionable color for a *true North Devon*, more especially when accompanied by a dark nose.....

Carriage—The Devons having, from their excellence for the yoke, another destiny besides that of the butcher's block, it is important that the animal's carriage should indicate as much but to obtain this, something of the heavy, inert, squarely moulded frame of the merely feeding animal must be relinquished for a lighter and more active frame.....3

Quality—On this the thriftiness, the feeding properties, and the value of the animal depend; and upon the touch of this quality the test is a good measure, the grozier's and butcher's judgment. If the "touch" be good, some deficiency of form may be excused; but, if it be hard and stiff, nothing can compensate for so unpromising a feature. In rasing the skin from the body between the thumb and finger, it should have a soft, flexible and sub-tantial feel; and when beneath the outspread hand it should move easily with and under it as though resting on a soft, elastic, cellular substance, which, however, becomes firmer as the animal "ripens." A thin, papery skin is objectionable, more especially in a cold climate.....15

100

POINTS OF THE DEVON BULL.

The points desirable in the female are generally so in the male; but must, of course, be attended with that masculine character which is inseparable from a strong, vigorous constitution. Even a certain degree of coarseness is admissible; but then it must be so exclusively of a masculine description as never to be discovered in the females of his get. The head of the bull may be proportionally larger, the frontal bone broader than those of cows, and the occipital bone flat and stronger, that it may receive and sustain the horn; and this latter may be excused if it be of little heavy at the base, so its upward form, its quality and color be right.

Neither is the looseness of the skin, attached to and depending from the under jaw, to be deemed other than a feature of the sex, *provided* it is not extended beyond the bones, but leaves the gullet and throat clear, and free from dewlap.

The upper portion of the neck should be f l

HANDLES all kinds of Manure found on the Farm. It takes the coarsest manure and applies it perfectly to the field, covering every square inch of ground with finely pulverized manure, insuring rapid growth and uniform crops in all parts of the field. It can be guaged to spread different amounts to the acre so the farmer knows exact by the amount of manure he is using.

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The Poet's Corner.

FROM KING'S CHAPEL.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Lightly we glance the fresh-cut marbles o'er;
Those two of earlier date our eyes enthrall;
The proud old Briton's oy the western door,
And hers, the Lady of Colonial days,
Whose virtues live in long-drawn classic phrase,
The fair Francisca of the southern wall.

Ay! those were goodly men that Reynold's drew,
And stately dames our Copley's canvas holds,
To their old Church, their Royal Master, true,
Proud of the claim their valiant sires had earned,
That "gentle blood," not lightly to be spurned,
Save by the churl ungenerous Nature moulds.

All vanished! It were idle to complain
That ere the fruit shall come the flowers must fall;
Yet somewhat we have lost amidst our gain,—
Some rare ideals time may not restore,
The charm of courtly breeding, seen no more,
And reverence, dearest ornament of all.

—Thus musing, to the western wall I came,
Departing; lo! a tablet fresh and fair,
Where glistened many a youth's remembered name
In golden letters on the snow-white stone,—
Young lives these aisles and arches once have known,
Their country's bleeding altar might not spare.

These died that we might claim a soil unstained,
Save by the blood of heroes; their bequests
A realm unsevered and a race unchained.
Has purer blood through Norman veins come down
From the rough knights that clutched the Saxon's crown
Than warmed the pulses in these faithful breasts?

These, too, shall live in history's deathless page,
High on the sow-wrought pedestals of fame,
Ranged with the heroes of remoter age;
They could not die who left their nation free,
Firm as the rock, unfettered as the sea,
Its heaven unshadowed by the cloud of shame.

—*September Atlantic.*

Ladies' Department.

A GOOD MATCH.

The season was drawing to a close, and already the earlier birds had departed; the tourist was beginning to crop up in strange localities, and the new lodging-house keeper, sniffing the battle afar off, to prepare for war with his natural enemies, the visitors, groups of whom I found scattered about the New York Station as I comfortably ensconed myself in the corner of a carriage bound for Staverton Towers.

A very few months back, Clement Sandering, with whom I was going to stay, had been living in town on a comparatively small income, which he had augmented, in a somewhat desultory way, by literary work. He had written a novel, a successful comedy, an endless variety of articles on an endless variety of subjects, and was looked on as rather a rising man. Probably he had never heard of Staverton Towers, when one morning, among the letters and papers which burdened his table, was a note from a firm of lawyers in the city to tell him that the Towers, and a rather extensive property in Meadshire, belonged to him. Sandering had met with such things in the realms of fiction, and the intimation seemed rather like the foundation of a plot for a novel than a real and veritable possibility. It was true, however; a distant relative of the late owner had died childless in Paris, and within a very short time Sandering had resigned his chambers and left town.

In the former days I had vaguely hovered during the season round a certain Gertrude Leigh, Sandering manifesting a slight disposition to admire her sister Bell. All this was entirely hopeless, for there was not the very remotest chance of old Sir Thomas consenting, even if the girls had wished it; and Lady Leigh would probably have had fits if the subject had been mentioned to her. The affair was not very serious on my part, nor, as I think, on Sandering's, though some of his heroines bore a suspicious resemblance to the fair Bell; but, then what would you have? —one must get up the heroine from somewhere, for pictures painted without models are seldom satisfactory. Circumstances alter cases, however, and his circumstances had very materially altered the case. Since his accession he had been in Paris, where I knew the Leighs were also staying, and though his letters had not said anything particularly pointed, it was evident that they were much together, and only natural to suspect that something would come of it—the usual something. Immediately on his return he had written to ask me down; there was no one with him, he said, and if I had work to do it would be much quieter than the chambers; so taking a heap of paper to try and get on with some much demanded industry, and secretly resolving to do nothing but lie under the trees and smoke, I started, anxious to see Sandering, in case his bachelor-days were soon to be ended; for marriage sometimes alters a man very considerably, and a young wife has not always an enthusiastic affection for her husband's bachelor-friends.

He met me at the station, and we drove through some of the prettiest scenery in Meadshire to the Towers. The fine old house was a striking contrast to the dingy chambers; as was the small army of men about the place, gardeners, grooms, and the rest, to the dilapidated old woman and small boy who had attended him a few days before; but he had fallen quite naturally into the new habits and interests, and it seemed years since the old London days.

After dinner we retired to a small room to smoke, and discuss all that had happened since we last met.

'And how are things theatrical?' he asked, when he had given me the details of journeying.

'Much as they were when you left, I think; and, in one way, as they will be always. The good ones pay; the bad ones don't. Isn't the same principle carried out in everything? If managers produce good pieces, publishers good works, or publicans good beer, the people go, read and drink remuneratively. All the same, I suppose, we are to understand that the drama is declining!'

'That's the silliest cry of all,' Sandering answered. 'There are plenty of good actors, and plenty of good plays. I don't mean to say that the whole thing is in a perfectly satisfactory state. A number of gentlemen, and some ladies, adopt the profession now and study it; but many, many fellows go on the stage with the idea that the art of acting can be learned any morning before breakfast, and, under the impression that 'ease' is the grand requisite, behave in drawing-rooms with the sort of ease that city clerks exhibit in their favorite liquor-shops. I remember one of the best actors in England telling me that when he first went on he was convinced that he could play Hamlet perfectly; but, after twenty years' experience, he should be thoroughly contented if his Laertes satisfied himself.'

'But there is a bigger blot upon the stage than what old actors call the 'cuff-shooters.' Look in the photograph show-windows,' I replied.

'Yes, at the—the—those—the—well, the 'popular actresses.' Popular actresses—my stars! As you know, I am very far from being a straight-laced moralist, but to see long rows of ogling creatures, whose modesty is as scant as their attire, labeled 'Popular Actresses,' is a little too much; and men who have the interest of the stage at heart ought to protest vigorously.'

I could only consent.

'Why do these sort of persons go on at all?' continued Sandering, who evidently felt the subject deeply. 'From vanity, generally, or some other reason than the making of a salary, or a desire to learn the profession. Either they want the money, or they don't want it; in one case they have no business on the stage, and in the other the less business they have there the better. I speak, of course, of the 'shop-window actresses;' and it is for the sake of the gentlewomen who are really actresses that I am really indignant.'

'It is a rough sea and a dangerous voyage, but how bravely some little girls weather the storm. For instance, the young lady—for she was a young lady, although she had been doomed to wear something like the costume of an acrobat—who played Mary in your comedy,' I said.

Sandering rose slowly from his chair, and leaned against the mantlepiece, smoking thoughtfully.

'Miss —— what was her name?' I continued. 'You seemed much struck by her once, and that is why she was taken from the ranks to play the part, I presume. Miss Burton—that's it. I suppose you have forgotten all about her now?'

'No,' he slowly replied, with a somewhat troubled face; 'I have thought a good deal of her—and a good deal less of myself in consequence.'

I looked at him inquiringly.

'I was struck with her, as you say, and told her so, and used to take her about to afternoon performances and that sort of thing; and gave her the part in the comedy, as you know.'

'Which was quite as much to your advantage as to hers, for she played charmingly,' I interrupted.

'She did, certainly. Well, I used to take her about, and got to like her awfully. After a time she seemed to grow shy about it—wouldn't come always when I wanted her to, and I was vexed and couldn't understand it. One evening when she was out of an engagement, I wanted to take her to the opera, and she made an excuse, and so I asked her about it. She said, 'Of course I'd like to go with you every day, dear, only you know how particular I have to be, and if we are always together, people will talk and wonder where—' I think she was going to say, 'Wonder where it will end;' so it occurred to me to wonder where it would, and knowing where it ought—for she was evidently very fond of me—I told her that I wanted to marry her.'

He stopped, and gazed thoughtfully at the fire.

'And what did she reply?' I asked

'I took her to the opera that evening. Things went on for a couple of months—she was a dear, good little girl,' he said, breaking off in his sentence and pausing, as if some reminiscences appeared to flit through his mind, 'and a lady, too. I don't mean to say she could get through a crowd of social etiquettes, as Gertrude Leigh might do, without knocking against some of the trees, but in heart she was as perfect a lady as the best of them. However,' he continued, 'things went on for a couple of months, and she was away from town when I heard to my intense amazement, as you know, that this place had come to me. I wrote to her at once, but I had to go to Paris on business connected with the estate before coming to town. Well, the Leighs were there, so was Ethilton, and—and he knew about the affair—with the little girl, and—'

'And I supposed he indulged in that mysterious style of conversation which is vaguely termed, 'saying things?'' I asked.

'Yes. He talked about my position in the country, and my small knowledge of a girl whose associations had been somewhat equivocal; and said what a good thing it would be if I went in for Bell Leigh—you know I used to like her, rather,—and he persuaded me to stay on—he was always talking about it—and—

'Lord Ethilton is such a very great swell that I cannot be expected to see things from his elevated point of view; but I must say I fail utterly to understand why your position in the country should oblige you to act dishonorably——'

'Go on,' Sandering said, as I stopped short; 'oblige me to act dishonorably——'

'To act unkindly,' I continued, 'to Miss Burton.'

'And now you think I ought to go and see her? Perhaps she has forgotten all about me,' he said.

'I'm sure that you ought to go; and she's not the sort of a girl to have forgotten you—or to have forgotten herself, in spite of Ethilton's charitable opinion,' I answered.

'I will go,' he said, flinging his cigar into the fire. 'I will go: and, by Jove! I feel so happy now that I've made up my mind. Of course I ought to go; and I'll start tomorrow morning—at least, it seems so rude to you, old fellow, when you've just come down——'

'Not at all,' I said, and meant it; though, for the matter of that, it is the only reply to such a speech possible under any circumstances. 'I'll go up with you, if you like,'

'Don't you mind, really? I can't tell you how much obliged I shall be. Do you know where she is?'

'Yes; it was at the rehearsal at the Prince's a day or two ago. She is going to play in the new opera bouffe.'

'A part?' he asked.

'Two lines, I think, and about five bars of recitative. There were thirteen people in the boxes and nearly two rows of stalls the other night, and such good business nearly turned Manley's head, and he put a new piece into rehearsal at once.'

'There's a train at half-past ten, if that's not too early for you,' he said, very eager to be off, now that he had decided to go.

'Not at all; and as it's nearly twelve, I think I'll retire. Good-night!—whatever are you thanking me for. Good-night!' and good luck in this and everything.'

A servant brought a very early message next morning that Sandering was up, and waiting for me to breakfast with him; and the dog-cart to take us to the station was at the door some twenty minutes earlier than was necessary. We arrived in town about two o'clock, and hastened to the theatre, where rehearsal was busily proceeding. Sandering's heart slightly failed here, and I left him in the neighboring square while I went to find Nelly Burton, and tell her that he was waiting to see her. I made my way up the dark staircase, and paused at the back of the half-lighted stage to take in the scene. The ladies of the establishment gorgeously arrayed and highly be-jewelled, were seated in a semicircle, receiving, with some shrugging of shoulders, the verdict of the leader of the band that there was very little improvement yet in the repetition of a chorus, and that it must do a good deal better before it would do. Two of the men who played characters of an Orestes and Pylades description, and who would have been cast for Cain and Abel infinitely better, bitterly quarrelling with each other, in the most polite tones, as to what business should or should not be introduced into the scenes they had together. One of the principal ladies was going through a speech to which the author listened with a badly concealed expression of contemptuous dismay. Barkington, the stage manager, who had been sixteen hours a day and did as much as sixteen people, was bustling busily to and fro. The manager, surrounded by some of this company, was examining a brilliant poster containing all the hues of the rainbow in addition to several which no well-conducted rainbow ever dreamed of assuming, destined soon to blaze out and illuminate a thousand walls. I soon caught sight of Nellie Burton, whose fresh, honest little face formed a striking contrast to some of those around her—harsh, *blase*, and coarse in expression as many of them were. Her trim little jacket had been worn before, and the *premiere jeunesse* had left the hat which was perched on the top of her fair curls, but she was very pleasant to look at.

'Are you busy?' I asked, when she had arched her interrogative eyebrows more than once, on ascertainiug that it was I.

'I have to sing all this directly,' she answered, smiling as she held out a sheet of music-paper with a very few bars scribbled on top. 'Are they going over that scene again?'

'Not without cause, I think. Miss Shaftesbury does not seem to know much of her part, nor to play what she does know particularly well; and she certainly can't sing the music, I said.

Kind little Nellie wanted to find an excuse for her directly.

'Well, you see, it's rather an awkward part to play,' she urged.

'Then the author's intention will be thoroughly realized, for she's certain to play it awkwardly. I came here on purpose to find you, Miss Burton. A friend of mine and of yours, wants very much indeed to see you,' I said, taking her a little apart. Can you guess who it is?'

Her lip said 'No' but her face very plainly said 'Yes.'

'It is Clement Sandering,' I continued.

'I can't imagine what Mr. Sandering can wish to see me for,' she replied, with an effort at haughtiness which did not much accord with the eager way she glanced round to see if he were near, as she asked, 'Where is he?'

'In the square; waiting very anxiously indeed to see you,' I said.

'I am quite at a loss to understand what Mr. Sandering can have to say to me. Will you please ask him to write if there really is anything?' she answered.

'To a certain extent, Miss Burton, I am in Clement's confidence; and if I were not, your tone would lead me to think—several things.'

'I am sure my tone is just the same as always,' she said, looking up with a faint twinkling as of coming tears in her ordinary bright eyes. 'Mr. Sandering is nothing to me, and I had rather not see him.'

'Of course, if you had rather not, there is no more to be said; but he will be greatly pained and hurt at your refusal—your unkind refusal, for he came all the way from Staverton this morning on purpose to see you. I did not think that you would have condemned any one without hearing the defence. Circumstantial evidence is so terribly deceptive,' I rejoined.

She did not in the least know what to do, and so tried to be angry, and rolled up her sheet of music without the slightest regard for the legibility of the writing.

'Well, good-bye Miss Burton; I will say that you are too angry to forgive him, shall I?'

'There's nothing to forgive, and I'm not angry a bit,' she said, quite as savagely as it was possible for her to speak.

'What is the word?' I answered, repressing a slight inclination to smile. 'Annoyed, hurt—vexed—grieved—disappointed? There is evidently something wrong between you, for you and he were excellent friends when his play was produced. If you see him, in three seconds he will probably explain away—whatever requires explanation, and then you will be very sorry that you hesitated in hearing him. Indeed, I have very good reason for believing that his explanations will be entirely satisfactory to you'—which I had not; but then it strengthened my shot, and I knew that when they once met, a good deal might be left to Sandering's native wit and persuasive powers if the girl had ever been really fond of him.

She unrolled her music, and studied the signature at the beginning of the stave with great diligence.

'My cue will be coming directly,' she said, at length.

'And then you'll see poor Clement?' I asked.

'Indeed I don't know way you call him 'poor Clement;' but she lingered over his name, and seemed to like the sound of it; 'he's not —— Yes, I'll go, if you don't mind waiting a minute more;' and she went down the stage, did her scrap of duty, and then we left the theatre together.

Sandering was coming towards us as we turned into the square. He threw away his cigar, and raised his hat as I left Miss Burton and retired; he seemed uncertain whether or not to offer his hand, for her obstinate little paws were tightly holding her parasol. I looked after them, however, when they had gone a little way, and saw one hand slowly relax its grip and resign itself for a moment to Sandering's custody, anticipating of its remention for a very much longer period; and when presently they overtook me, a glance convinced me that all was right. Nelly Burton appeared well on her way to making a good match.

The future Mrs. Sandering lived in rooms up a good many stairs in one of the streets which surrounded Russel square; and thither I used sometimes to accompany my friend; when our pretty little hostess regaled us with cups of tea, and sang songs to us at a tinkling little piano which tried strenuously to be gay and festive and make good music, but whose age and decrepitude would sometimes assert themselves by the sudden cessation of a note or so, which grew tired and refused to speak any more—very unlike the mistress, who was never tired of talking a great deal in those happy times. Here, too, we examined her drawings—she was a very clever little person and sketched admirably—and looked over the precious volume in which were pasted the few newspaper cuttings criticising her performances; mostly from country chronicles, though there were two columns from a London morning paper which had afforded her so vast an amount of pleasure that, if the writer had but known the gratification his pen was destined to give, I believe he would have defied his editor and put in half a column.

On one of these afternoons, about a week after our arrival in town, we were looking over a portfolio of sketches, and Sandering was amusing himself by chaffing the drawings to tease Nelly.

'The only suggestion I have to offer,' he said, putting a sketch on the mantelpiece and looking at it with the burlesqued air of a connoisseur, 'is that a body should put titles and explanatory notes to her drawings, because a body is so apt to be misunderstood.'

'I wish you wouldn't keep on teasing me about saying 'a body' just because I used the expression once,' she said, spoiling a laugh with a pretended pout.

'You should be very careful what expression you make use of, for you want all you can muster to put into these works of art, Miss Burton. Take a strange picture; very charming, very interesting, but a trifle vague,' he said, selecting another from the case. 'A gentleman seated in a—a box carried by two elliptic wheels, and drawn by a—by an anomalous quadruped, which my slender knowledge of natural history will not permit me safely to——' A horse, is it? really a horse? Well, we'll call it a horse, at any rate, if only for the sake, or rather, the avoidance of, argument—drawn by a horse. The gentleman is engaged in emulating the example of Simple Simon in the ballad, and fishing as he goes along the turnpike road—*driving!* do you seriously mean? Very well, dear, you drew it, and so you know; but why a man should go out driving with a fishing rod in his hand, I—a *whip?* Oh, no; come now, Nelly dear; that is going a little too far; really it is only as a personal favor that you and I can consent for a moment to accept that as a whip. Men don't hold their whips jutting over their horses' backs like bowsprits, and it quite bears out my premises that explanatory notes should be appended to these works of art.'

Nelly showed the disposition to attempt the recovery of her much-abused work; but Sandering was on the alert, and resumed:

'He is driving (if you really do insist upon it) up a hill towards a church of ingeniously-assorted architecture, about which I will only say that if the incumbent is not very much afraid of the steeple as a building, the heads and morals of the congregation are in some danger. You are sure that it is a horse?'

'What a shame!' Nelly said, laughingly. 'I'm sure it's all quite plain enough.'

'Quite *plain* enough, in all conscience—you might almost go so far as to call it *ugly*,' Sandering replied.

'You may think so, if you like, sir. I'm sure the church is upright, and my uncle was incumbent—at least curate there,' Nelly said, looking at the drawing.

'Why, I never knew that you had an uncle, dear. What's his name, and where does he live?' he asked.

'He lives abroad, and I don't write to him much—he wouldn't like me being in the profession. He's very kind, though, and used to want me to go and live with him, only I didn't. Hedley, his name is.'

'What Hedley—not Robert, I suppose?' Sandering asked.

'Yes, it is Robert—how did you guess?' inquired Nelly.

'You don't mean to say that this is Chesterton church?' Sandering said, in a tone of extreme surprise.

'Yes, it is,' Nelly answered, evidently bewildered at his knowledge.

'But surely, Nelly, Robert Hedley, who was curate of Charleston in 18—, was not your uncle?'

'Not only was, but is. Why are you so excited about it, dear?' she asked.

'Don't you know that—have you not heard of his death, Nelly?' he inquired.

'No, indeed, I haven't,' Nelly replied.

'Poor little girl! I ought not have mentioned it so suddenly. He died on the 17th of November, 18—.'

Nelly laughed. 'Then all I can say is that he has been represented by a wonderful healthy-looking ghost. I have not seen him lately, but two or three times since then; and I shall most likely have a letter from him—or the ghost—to-morrow morning. I wrote the other day, the first letter for a long time, to tell him about—about us,' she said.

'My dear child, if you are not joking, there must be a very great mistake somewhere. Do you know that if Robert Hedley were alive he would inherit Staverton Towers? But he *must* be dead. I have every proof of it. You know,' he said, turning to me, it was chiefly to ascertain this that I went to Paris. He *must* be dead.'

Nelly persisted, however. He had lived in Paris years ago, she said, but was now minister to a little Protestant community in the south of France; and such, on investigation, turned out to be the case. A Robert Hedley, a clergyman, corresponding apparently in other particulars, had died in Paris; but we had the best of reasons for assuring ourselves that it was not he.

An extract from one of his letters to his niece will best finish my story:

"* * * let Mr. Sandering, then, resume his occupation of the Towers without scruple; convinced that I should not be unhappy in leaving my work here, and adopting a new life, at my advanced age. You are my only relative, and if I have power to dispose of the property at my death, it will be yours; if not, it appears that your husband would inherit it."

Sandering talked nonsense at first about having asked Nelly to marry him under false pretences, and it being his duty to free her from the engagement; but she appears much to prefer the bondage, and impudently asserts that if he did go away, he would only want to come again as he had done before.

There is some question of entail which the lawyers have not yet decided, and indeed I believe they have not been requested to do so; but under any circumstances, there seems every probability that it will turn out to be a good match.—[Germantown Telegraph.

THE CHICKADEE.

He is, *par excellence*, the bird of the merry heart. There is a notion current to be sure, that all birds are merry; but that is one of those second-hand opinions which a body begins to observe for himself soon finds it necessary to give up. With many birds life is a hard struggle. Enemies are numerous, and the food supply is too often scanty. Of some species it is probable that few die in their beds. But the chickadee seems to be exempt from all forebodings. His coat is thick, his heart is brave, and, whatever may happen, something will be found to eat. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" is his creed, which he accepts, not "for substance of doctrine," but literally. No matter how bitter the wind or how deep the snow, you will find the chickadee, as we say, under the weather. It is this perennial good humor, I suppose, which makes other birds so fond of his companionship; and their example might well be heeded by persons who suffer from moods of depression. Such unfortunates could hardly do better than to court the society of the tit. His whistle and chirps, his graceful feats of climbing and hanging, and withal his engaging familiarity (for, of course, such good nature as his could not consist with suspiciousness) would most likely send them home in a most Christian frame. The time will come, we may hope, when doctors will prescribe bird-grasing instead of blue-pill. To illustrate the chickadee's trustfulness, I may mention that a friend of mine captured one in a butterfly-net, and carrying him into the house, let him loose in the sitting-room. He was at home immediately, and seeing the window full of plants, proceeded to go over them carefully, picking off the lice with which such window gardens are always more or less infested. A little later he was taken into my friend's lap, and soon he climbed up to his shoulder; and after hopping about for a few minutes on his coat-collar, he selected a comfortable roosting place, tucked his head under his wing, and went to sleep, and slept on undisturbed while carried from one room to another. Probably the chickadee's nature is not of the deepest. I have never seen him when his joy rose to an ecstacy. Still his feelings are not shallow, and the faithfulness of the pair to each other and to their offspring is of the highest order. The female has sometimes to be taken off the nest, and even to be held in the hand before the eggs can be examined.—[September Atlantic.

COUNTRY COUSINS.

(Rural New Yorker.)

How dear to my heart are the sweet country cousins
When dog days of Summer begin to draw near.
When bricks have grown hot and when sunstrokes by dozens
Fill body with anguish and bosom with fear!
The green waving fields and the sweet-smelling breezes,
The 'scapeing from turmoil to quiet and calm.
The rich creamy milk which the ready hand seizes,
And e'en the brown cousins who live on the farm.

The plain country cousins, the uncultured cousins
The sweet country cousins who live on the farm.

The sweet country cousins! oh, aren't they a treasure!
How handy to have at the vacation time!
And paying one's board is a too costly pleasure,
When all can be had without spending a dime.
How pleasant to live on rich cream and ripe berries,
Fresh golden-hued butter and cakes light and warm,
Free use of the horses, the carts and the wherries
Of sweet country cousins who live on the farm!
The plain country cousins, the uncultured cousins,
The sweet country cousins who live on the farm!

The sweet country cousins! oh, aren't they a treasure!
How handy to have at the vacation time!
And paying one's board is a too costly pleasure,
When all can be had without spending a dime.
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